

The Body That Lies

By Wisnu A. Pradana

What's good to have a body

that does not listen

to the will of the soul

"Stop clapping!"

commanded me to my tiny hands

"walk straight and run!"

to my silly feet

I shout aloud

I cry a river

to find my body

lie to me

"Aggression"

they said to my growling

"Isolation"

I received for not cooperating

in fact

I am only in pain

and lonely

for being trapped in this body

Who wouldn't be desperate

to have a life full of heartache

by the mocks of your peer

and the words of someone you dear

numbers numbers numbers

“profound mental retardation”

they conclude for my imperfection

to many, I am just a soul that slumbers

Note: “The Body That Lies” is a poetic reflection of my journey studying individuals with Rett syndrome.



Wisnu A. Pradana is a Ph.D. student at the Department of Language and Literacy Education at the University of Georgia. Wisnu's research interests include language and literacy ideology, Rett syndrome, critical disability studies, language socialization, queer studies, and cognition. He is currently undertaking researches and projects on the communication, cognition, and quality of life of the individuals with Rett syndrome. He can be reached at wisnu.pradana@uga.edu. Picture