

Daryl Muranaka

The Great Divide

The weather changes
one tree flares yellow
lights up the daylight
against the embers
of the maples.

My children see the bounty
and think of leaping
into tall leaf piles
in a single bound.

But there are children
on the other side
of the country,
in the middle
of the Pacific,
far beyond
as far as far
can be
who will say
these New England falls
are lies, having never
seen this change
except in death
or in the imagination
of the television
or posted on the classroom wall.

I know this
because I am
the son of a teacher
who chuckled at the children
shouting, "NOT!!!"
and teaching them the world
is much bigger and stranger
than all the four walls
and the ocean
that surrounds them.
No one ever grasps
but gasps
as what we knew
we know
slips
away.

Daryl Muranaka was raised in California and Hawaii. He lives in the Boston area with his wife and two children. In his spare time, he enjoys aikido and taijiquan and exploring his children's dual heritages. His poems have appeared in *By&By Poetry* and *Spry Literary Review*. He has published one collection and a chapbook. Muranaka's work has appeared in the *Gyroscope Review* and *Ink, Sweat, and Tears*. It is also forthcoming in the *Roanoke Review*. His first collection, *Hanami*, was published by Aldrich Press in 2015, and a chapbook, *The Minstrel of Belmont*, was published by Finishing Line Press in 2015