

Category D - Individual Poem – Grades 9 & 10

**Katie Gozaloff**

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**Respect the Badge**

As we near the twenty-first hour of the day  
And my fatigued body winds down from the busy day  
My dad kisses me briefly on both cheeks and says goodbye  
For I won't see him till the morning  
When the sun rises and the sky is colored orange and yellow  
'Till he is done with his midnight shift  
All through the night he fights crime as flashing lights shine red and blue,  
Speeding down the poorly-lit street, hurrying to yet another call,  
In the middle of the night it gets hard to resist your eyes shutting,  
Indeed it's always a long night, but he still has a job to do.  
Being part of the police department can be difficult and dangerous,  
So through the night I pray in my dreams for his safety  
And continue my hopes through my very deep slumber  
Until I wake up with another kiss and a soft touch from his frosted hands.  
I know now he is safe after a quite eventful and wintry night  
And the joy of seeing his face and red cheeks,  
It is yet another day that I'm so extremely thankful for him and others  
For all the grueling and tough nights.  
They should be highly respected and not just by some  
But by all for risking themselves to serve and protect the community.

**Katie Gozaloff**

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