

5-1-2015

"Leech," "Blue Whale" and "Elephant" (poems)

Benjamin Aleshire
University of New Orleans

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uno.edu/awards>

Award Name: Ryan Chighizola Prize

Recommended Citation

Aleshire, Benjamin, ""Leech," "Blue Whale" and "Elephant" (poems)" (2015). *Undergraduate Prizes and Awards*. Paper 15.

<https://scholarworks.uno.edu/awards/15>

This Creative Work is brought to you for free and open access by the Undergraduate Showcase at ScholarWorks@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in Undergraduate Prizes and Awards by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UNO. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uno.edu.

Leech

Benjamin Aleshire

Ryan Chighizola Prize Winner

Call me a parasite, sure —

I can't change the body

I was born into.

We all must eat, somehow, no?

Me, I have learned to wait —

You'll come running to me

when you need relief

from something you don't understand,

when even your blood

betrays you.

for James

Blue Whale

Benjamin Aleshire

Ryan Chighizola Prize Winner

A relic of an older world,
they call me, but
I have out-lived ice-ages
& I will out-live you.
Even when my body drifts
to the ocean floor,
I become a garden
glowing in the darkness.
I am so large
that I have no concept
of fear, of danger:
I almost envy you
your human folly, where
everything you do is sweetened
by risk.

for Dierdre

Elephant

Benjamin Aleshire

Ryan Chighizola Prize Winner

If the heart is a building —

(with its chambers & atriums)

my mother my architect built for me

a palace.

But there are too many rooms

& no one inside them dancing

so many mirrors & undisturbed pools.

A beautiful thief is coming soon

to plunder me I know it

(I can feel her even now scaling up my walls,

leaving a map of her bare prints

through the rows of my hushed gardens)

for Isabella