



# Gabrielle Perry, Grasshopper

Bald Eagle Area School District, PA.

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## Artist Statement

Throughout my two years in Mrs. Cox's Pottery 1 and Pottery 2 classes, I have learned the importance of having patience and stepping out of my comfort zone and extensive pottery skills I never knew existed. Learning to throw on the wheel taught me that not all good things are created on the first try; plus being a slower worker, partly from me being a perfectionist, I always felt I was falling behind my classmates. However, Mrs. Cox's persistent encouragement and instruction made me realize there was nothing wrong with taking my time because patience was necessary. Additionally, I created things I never imagined being capable of such as Stella cups, coil pots, ocarinas, and intricate tile sets. Although difficult, I benefited from the challenge by being pushed beyond my perceived limits. Moreover, I took away numerous pottery skills from these two classes such as BAS relief, underglaze, sgraffito, and how to properly make attachments, care for clay, trim and throw on the wheel, turn my ideas into a 3D reality, connect work to themes with deeper meanings, and many more. Mrs. Cox's flexibility in our projects made me excited to express my creativity each day in a project that I would be proud of. Not only did I benefit from the work we did, but also from the guidance she provided. Her leadership was inspiring because she was always patient, optimistic, and willing to do anything to help anyone. I could always count on her class as being a place to gather my thoughts and relax in each chaotic day due to the non-stressful environment she created.

With that being said, this lantern was the last piece I created in my pottery classes. Not using the wheel, I made the main body using a slab of clay wrapped around an oat container armature. Part of the process included sketching a flower on transfer paper with a charcoal pencil and evenly spacing it across the lantern to balance the amount of positive and negative space on the surface. I faced challenges during this project such as ensuring the cuts I created when narrowing the neck were seamless and working against a quick deadline. Like many of my works, my inspiration came from nature because it represents a source of tranquility. Under this theme, I chose to cut out flowers because they provided a variety of shapes and sizes that would balance and fluctuate the amount of light let out of the lantern. The green represents a cool earthiness and elegance to finish this artwork that I am grateful to be able to share with others.