

## Message Across Space and Time

mud-stained, bruise-faced, ego-strangled  
on the way to school, while there, and  
chased home to more of the same

while almost everyone escapes blackness  
in one place or the other, you suffer  
everywhere, all the time

your parents wish you didn't exist  
laughing at your fears  
silencing your dreams

classmates throw rock-encased snowballs  
you wonder how a child can  
survive in a unforgiving world

voices tell you don't belong  
crushing you before you're fully formed  
but you find a way to stay strong

please believe it gets better little one  
keep your head down, arms tucked in  
so you don't get pulled down the wrong path

continue walking, run if you must  
you will grow old, though you think  
life won't see the age of ten

it's there, just over the bridge

a step over adulthood

hold on a little longer

there are no promises of rainbows

riches or even happiness

just possibilities

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**The Pangolin Review; Issue 6, 8 September 2018**