A Casualty

The day after Pearl Harbor
his whole basketball team signed up

so he did too
because that was one sure way

to get out of going to school
And the Marines

taught him
everything he needed to know

to become a sniper
and a scout

before sending him,
to Iwo Jima.

where he was taught
to spray the caves with fire

to force the enemy to come out
which they did

including one very young soldier,
just a boy,

in flames.
And the only thing
he never learned
was how to live with that.

**Something Falling**

I saw a shadow of something falling
As if from the tree to the grass

And I wondered if it were a bird
Or maybe a shadow

That looked like a bird -
That had the shape that a bird needs

To surf the skies-
But no hardiness yet in the wings

Now I think it was
a fledgling love

That tried the air
And fell to earth

Before it knew
The strength it takes to fly

*Maryalicia Post* first long-form poem won the Gerard Manley Hopkins International Poetry Competition and was subsequently published as a book, *‘After You’*, by Souvenir Press UK. Her five-line tanka and six-line cherita appear in online and print
journals. Other work has been published by Ogham Stone and Poetry Quarterly. She is a travel writer based in Dublin, Ireland.