

Jonathan Rivera

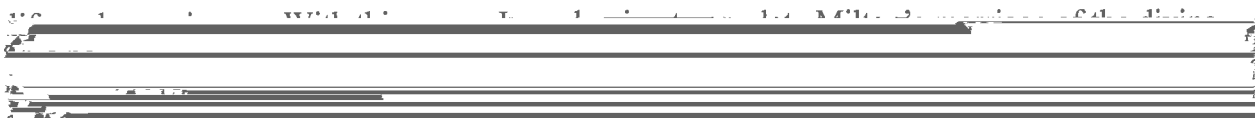
Undergraduate

Senior, English with Licensure to teach

Title: "As Grasshoppers"

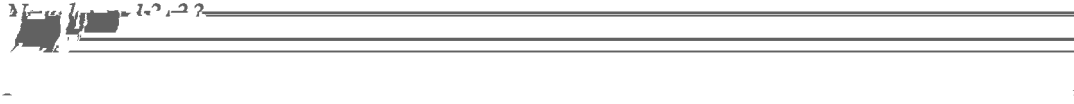
Rationale:

This work was inspired by John Milton's ability to take biblical stories and expand on their feelings and struggles with great skill and care. Another feature heavily represented in the poem is how Milton could use these stories to talk about contemporary and historical events of importance. But more importantly, adding at times very deeply personal commentary on his own



As grasshoppers

and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."



And Ca'leb stood before.

Fist clenched assaulted the airwaves with his message

"Freedom and democracy"

"hearts and minds"

Weapons of mass destruction. A quiet unyielding anger.

Beating of the drum.

Hoshea stands and says the milk and honey

are not for us to take. Land, death stricken

the very earth swallows inhabitants.



wars we could not possibly understand.

Yet the cry stands, "we go forward to defend freedom"