

---

# CLASS ON A TUESDAY IN NOVEMBER

---

**April Pameticky**  
Wichita East High School

Taken with his music, earbuds swallowed all the way in  
so that we hear nothing, only watch the jerky gyrations  
that make my neck pang in sympathy.

His eyes squeezed shut like curtains tightly closed  
--you know the expensive ones they hang in hotels  
to block out extraneous light.

I try to name that tune to the bobbing and pencil tapping,  
to the exaggerated lip snarl reminiscent of the king  
or some other stage-owning legends with big lips and big mouths.

We are, none of us, working anymore,  
silent audience to his thrash-metal rock show,  
each of us remembering some long-lost

stadium concert experience that would account for his enthusiasm,  
until I think the weight of our stares must've penetrated  
his thrall because he seems to freeze,

one shoulder cocked higher than the other, pencil mid drum-riff.  
We look at him and he looks at us and he finally pulls out an ear bud.  
*What are you listening to?* Asks the girl next to him, a smile in her voice.

He ducks his head, embarrassed,  
and we lean forward for his whisper:  
*Handel's Messiah.*

## **Author Biography**

Mother, wife, teacher, poet. April Pameticky shares time between her high school English classroom and the creative community of artists and writers in Kansas. She launched the *Wichita Broadside Project* and currently serves as editor of *River City Poetry*, an online poetry journal. Her own work can be seen in journals like *Malpais Review*, *KONZA*, and *Chiron Review*. She is also the author of several chapbooks, and her debut full-length collection *Waterbound* (2019) is available from Spartan Press. Follow April @aprilinwichita. Learn more about her at <http://aprilpameticky.com>. Email her at [aprilpameticky@hotmail.com](mailto:aprilpameticky@hotmail.com).