**A Crooked Umbrella**

She thought she was safe from the pain of the world.

That her fake personality could guide her through life.

She’d smile in public so no one could see

How quickly her life was falling apart.

She tried to avoid all her negative feelings

To make sure that no one could see when she cried.

Like a crooked umbrella when standing in rain,

All of her smiles couldn’t shield her from tears.

She didn’t want people to know who she was

In fear that her real self just wasn’t enough.

She asked herself if things could ever change,

But she doubted that things would change for the best.

She hopes that her life will shortly get better,

But a positive outcome is so hard to see.

So she lives in misery,

And drowns in her tears;

Hoping that one day this will all be over.

By, Danielle Retterer