

fOURTH GENRE

Dear [REDACTED],

We apologize for taking so long to get back to you about your essay "[REDACTED]" you submitted to *Fourth Genre* last fall. Your piece went through several rounds of reading, as members of our staff had a lot to say about it and we kept coming back to it. Ultimately, we have decided against publishing it, but I wanted to share some of what we liked about your work.

What we feel are the strengths of the essay are the shifts between various stages of memory/reflection and your characterizations of family members: your writing really makes the reader interested in the mysteriousness of [REDACTED], and the tone of your exploration makes for a fresh and personal take on existentialism. Two things that confused us, however, are the title and final paragraph, which leave the reader wondering why those particular images/ideas are placed in such prominent positions, as they may defeat some of the greater reflective accomplishments of everything between them. While there are obviously many things we like about your essay, in the end it unfortunately didn't rise to the top of our selection pile.

Thanks for thinking of *Fourth Genre*, and we hope you'll think of us again in the future. We wish you the best of luck in finding a home for this piece.

Sincerely,

Kathleen for the *Fourth Genre* editorial staff