Percolating

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First Prize Winner

Percolating

After lunch
The sound of brewing coffee
Perks my mood
Smiles lost in the bottom of charcoal spills
Iridescent swirls on top –
Liquid caffeine

All collecting in a pot that
We never wash anymore
Simply rinse quickly
Before each use
Remembering to throw dried-up, used grinds
Into trashcans with no bags

Chewed up gum
Turquoise blue and lime green wads
Cling to the side
The coffee’s done
Rushing to raise my Daily Delight
Mug to my lips

Steam soothes my eyes
Happy as its blackness sears
Down my throat
Color flushes crimson in cheeks
Oh – how much better an addict feels
After just one sip

-Sarah Beales *