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The Walk

Junior and the start of senior year was really tough for me. It's a tough time for everybody, as our heads rush with stress about the future and we're swamped with schoolwork that matters more than it's ever mattered before. We're all told that it will be okay in the end, (as a graduating senior, I can confirm that I made it out alive), but for most of the time, it didn't feel like that for me. I was one who was particularly swept up in the stress of the process. I felt like I had lost myself, and seemed to only care about the grades I got and the colleges I wanted to apply to. I did have a few tactics to retain my sanity, however: Everytime I started feeling particularly overwhelmed I simply went for a walk around my neighborhood. Since the fall, I've been bringing my camera along with me.

A walk is an escape, despite location. It is a chance to clear your mind, to engage with nature, to collect your thoughts. I've taken this walk around my neighborhood in every mood, in every type of weather, in every season. Each time I find and capture something different: whether it's the same fence cast in a new light, or the same tree but rather than bare limbs it now blossoms with the flowers of spring. Bringing a camera on these walks has pushed me to pay closer attention to my surroundings, and to slow down in a world that seemingly never stopped (times have changed since then...)

From the hundreds of photos I've taken since I started bringing my camera on these ritual walks, I could have included the prettiest photos I took: the flowers glowing in the light of golden hour, or the dramatic reflections of the sunset in the pond I walk by. But I chose the photos that stuck out from the hundreds. I chose the photos of the 'uglier' views seen on the walk: like the rusted swingset of the abandoned Muraco Elementary playground, or the chain link fences that enclose Leonard Field. There is so much more to be seen and appreciated than what first catches our eye.



Crooked



Colder Glance



Off-Kilter



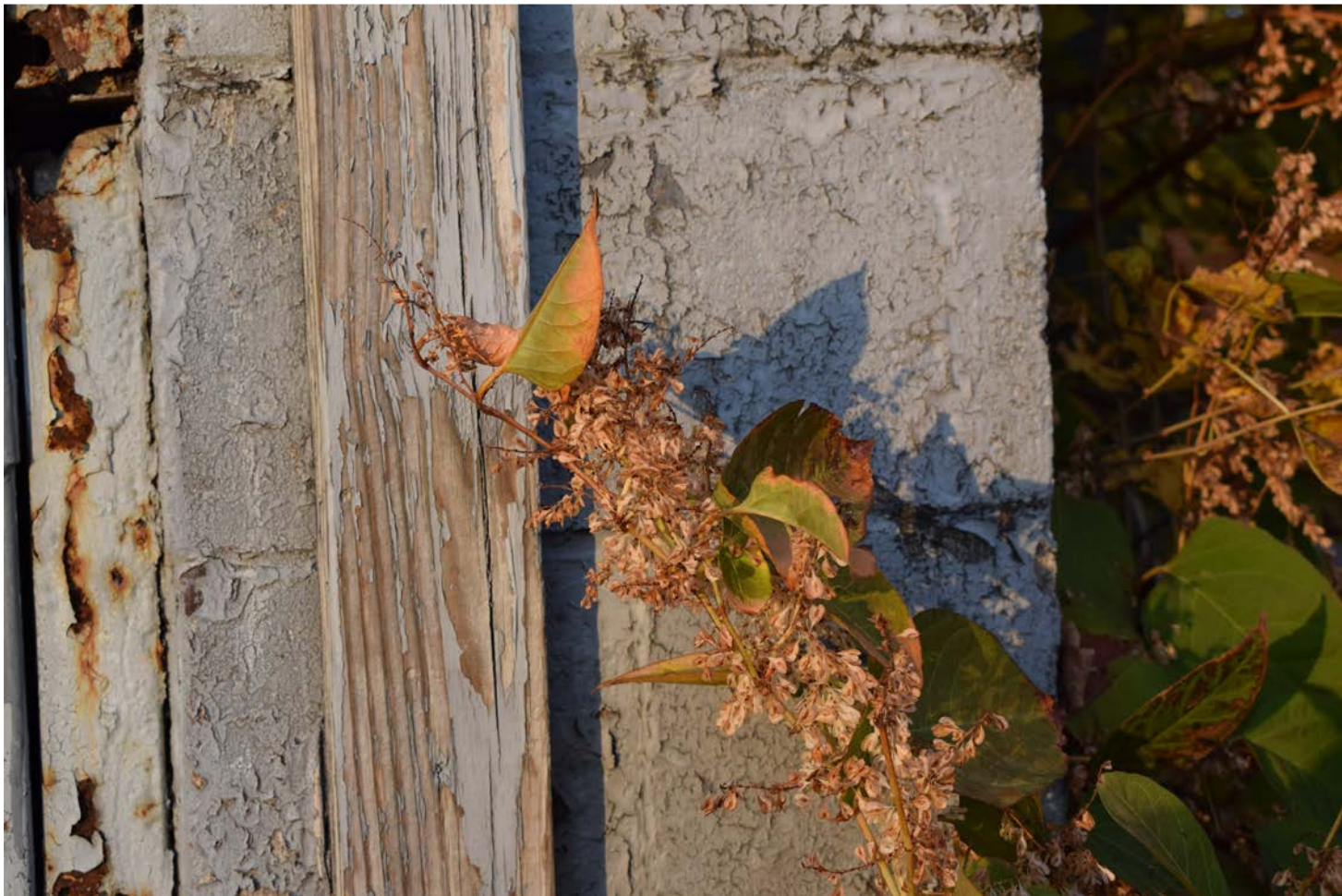
Chained Up



Creeping



Glowing Decay



Flowering Rust



When You Take a Closer Look



Growth Past the Barrier



Dripping Thorns