

**Yu Ashley 3L**

Theme: Loyalty  
Title: **Song of a Heartbeat**  
Poem:

I am a songbird, soft and perched  
Behind your rib cage.  
The brightest melody you'll hear  
From me as you age.  
I sing for hours, tinkling laughter,  
For you, for you alone.  
Loyal always, I am yours,  
I am not my own.  
On this tree of tangled veins,  
Tweet, tweet, I go  
Serene, I sing my scarlet song,  
But do you thank me? No.

I am a grand parade, bold yet trapped  
Between your two lungs.  
The brazen leader of a red-white crowd,  
But alas, I'm not young.  
I march for days to bellowing cheers,  
I march for only you.  
Forget my bleeding feet as I  
Tread on till time is due.  
Marching glorious, I must carry on  
Parading in your chest.  
Silent, I wonder who will care  
If I have a rest?

I am a war drum, wild and pounding  
Beneath your sinew and skin  
This is a threat. A riot. A war  
Too weary am I, to win.  
I fight for days with clamoring swords  
For who? It's you. It's you.  
You leave me here, a thousand to one  
Forsaken, without rescue  
Venom pulsing through your veins  
You wage war against me?  
And if I stop, will you remember  
How I stayed so faithfully?

You still think you've won?  
Guess again. I'm done.