

I AM WHERE I AM? by Jayden Ly (Inspired by “Who Am I Where?” by Rebecca Solnit)

In the Sunset, I feel far away from loud noises and responsibilities
I'm in my territory— at home

At the Civic Center, I think of the decisions being made
I wonder if I will be able to make these decisions one day

In Chinatown, I walk through the alleyways my father
used to run through as a kid— I feel like a visitor

In Golden Gate Park, I reminisce on the field trips,
the bugs under rocks, the birds singing in the trees

At the Academy of Sciences, I am always 5 years old,
observing the fish and the bugs, feeling the
the excitement of an earthquake,
visiting my friend Claude the albino alligator

In Pacific Heights, I am here because of school.

In the Tenderloin, I wonder about the
city gems hidden away from me by my parents

At Ocean Beach, I look from a distance at the sunset

In the Castro, I am in an unfamiliar
yet welcoming place

On Clement, I am in a second Chinatown

At Green Apple Books on 9th Ave,
I feel like I can read more books than
I actually can

At JP Murphy Park, I still avoid the sand pits
I once watched a kid pee in when I was 6

In Downtown, I wonder what it was like 30 years ago

In San Francisco, I uncover my home