

5-1-2008

## Just Then

Valerie Perczek  
*NSU University School*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool\\_litmag](https://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool_litmag)



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Perczek, Valerie (2008) "Just Then," *Hieroglyphics: the NSU University School Literary Magazine*: Vol. 15 , Article 89.  
Available at: [https://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool\\_litmag/vol15/iss1/89](https://nsuworks.nova.edu/uschool_litmag/vol15/iss1/89)

This Poem is brought to you for free and open access by the University School at NSUWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hieroglyphics: the NSU University School Literary Magazine by an authorized editor of NSUWorks. For more information, please contact [nsuworks@nova.edu](mailto:nsuworks@nova.edu).

# JUST THEN

VALERIE PERCZEK

I remember when you smiled so big that your cheeks touched  
your eyes.

Your bones embraced the form  
of a solid azure t-shirt.

We hid in a jungle  
like the only two people  
on earth,  
in that car,  
on that road.

The first day I spotted you, we sat on a lunch bench.  
you, with your long brown hair, a messenger bag hanging from  
your shoulder,

me, the new kid, short, purple-haired  
Chubby from the summer.

I wished to show you my heart and  
hear yours  
pumping, flump-flumping  
up against my ear.

I learned the shape of your body.

Your feet are  
tenacious  
as they hold  
this rough earth.

A thousand memories  
float between us.

Each of us  
a vessel of a different kind.

Fumbling down a line of images that pass like people running by,  
something taught me,  
and so I learned.