

So Be It

By Kate Mullikin

(In memory of the slain teachers of Sandyhook elementary)

Would I die for Kai?
Would I kill for Caleb?
Would I try to murder someone
To defend Lucy or Josie?
Would I lay down my life
Before I let anyone
Lay his hands on Elliott?
The answer is yes,
Without reservation and proudly
In the face of unthinkable madness
And death – yes!!!

And that answer stands
For all the other kids
On my present watch
And yet to enter my keep -

But please don't suggest that I keep
An automatic weapon in my classroom –

I would never be able to sleep,
Or enjoy my waking hours around the children
To whom I'm trying like hell to teach the peace -

And it is my solemn duty to practice what I preach.

I know all too well
That every day this sacred service
Brings with it the possibility
For the end –
So, now, one child at a time,
The world's conscience
May I attempt to mend –
And if I die trying...

So be it.