modernity

Alexandra Larkin ’18

helen wears M.A.C. ruby woo
and scrolls through instagram
watching eggshell impressions
of herself, starving

niobe preys herself
to men at bars to get enough drinks
for every dead child
half between drowning
in alcohol, or tears

achilles holds patroclus’s hand
in the gym and
deadlifts more than
agamemnon and hector
ignores the stares, but still scared

odysseus downloads
tinder and bumble and grinder
and locks his iphone (rose gold)
with a fifteen-letter passcode
so penelope won’t catch him but
she does, with divorce papers

jason talks to medea
through prison glass
she curses him, hexes that
don’t work anymore
but be comes for the kids
gotta keep up appearances

medusa runs a women’s support group
for rape victims
with daphne and chryseis and ariadne
handing out pamphlets and handmade cookies
and little pink plastic tasers
crying, for what they all lost
cassandra keeps telling
hector to be careful in bar fights
and paris to stop
hitting on menelaus’s girlfriend
they don’t listen, anyway

hector holds andromache,
her wary eyes on the subway
saying please
don’t leave me
don’t leave me