

2001

**bright blue ribbons**

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bright blue ribbons

jumping beans danced every which way in my stomach. we were  
smack-dab in the middle of everything  
on a roll  
total perfect concentration  
never pausing for a second thought  
on fire *en fuego* lit up like the Fourth of July.

madness is my middle name  
little endorphins race through my blood stream  
adrenaline tornadoes through my brain.

your eyes race down the paper  
radiating rabid energy as your frantic hands waltz across lines  
in a scribbling frenzy.

together, we are unstoppable.  
this is our sport and we are  
competing to win.

when every question at every station  
had been finished and it was time to wait  
eleven eternities almost forever when

finally the ceremony started.  
third?no  
second?no  
first? hesitation I couldn't breathe.  
yes.  
It was it was us.

We hugged and held hands as we walked to the front where they handed us  
bright blue ribbons.

*Sarah Crabtree*