Dear whom it may concern,

 I had the pleasure of teaching Ashley in her 11th grade English class at Lake Shore high school. From the first day of class, Ashley impressed me with her ability to be articulate about difficult concepts and texts, her sensitivity to the nuances within literature, and her passion for reading for reading, writing, and creative expression- both in and out of the classroom. Ashley is a talented literary critic and poet, and she has my highest recommendation as a student and writer.

 Ashley is talented at considering the subtleties within literature and the purpose behind authors’ work. She produced an extraordinary year-long thesis paper on creative identity development in which she compared works from three different time periods and synthesized cultural and historical perspective to inform her analysis. When called upon to give her thesis defense in front of her peers, Ashley spoke clearly and eloquently about her conclusions and responded to the questions in a thoughtful way. Outside of the classroom, Ashley is dedicated to her literary pursuits. She publishes to her literary pursuits, especially to poetry.

 Throughout the year, Ashley was an active participant in our discussions and she always supported her peers. Her c aring nature and personality allow her to work well with others in a team setting, as she always respects others’ opinions even when they differ from her own. When we had a class debate about gun laws, Ashley opted to speak for the side opposite her own views. She explained her choice as motivated by a desire to out herself in other peoples’ shoes, view the issue from a new perspective and gain a clearer sense of the issue from all angles. Throughout the year, Ashley demonstrated this openness to and empathy for the opinions, feelings, and perspectives of others, along with shrewd powers of observation, all qualities that makes her outstanding as a student of literature and burgeoning writer.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Bednarski

English Teacher

Lake Shore High School