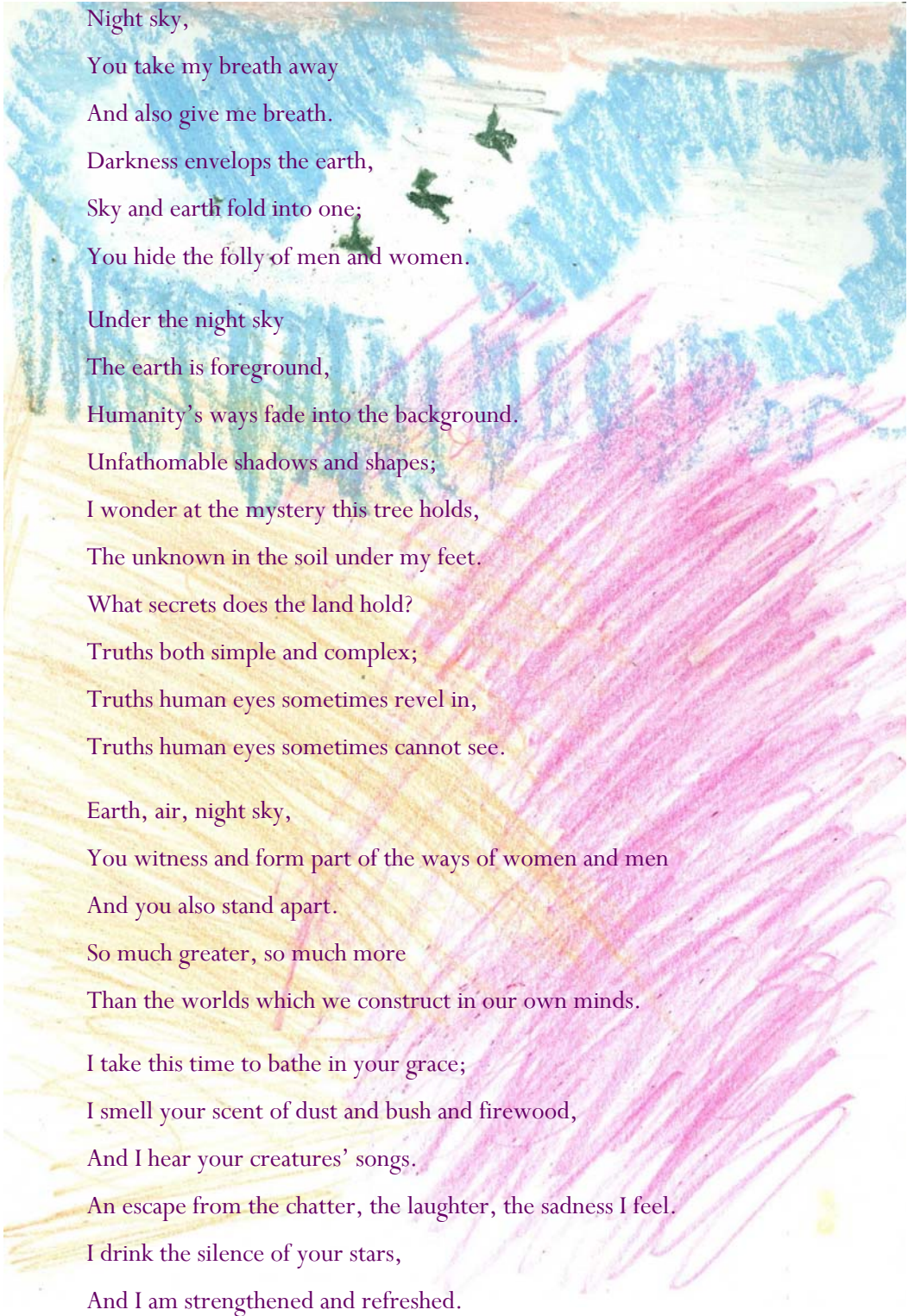


Appendix Two: A poem to the Night Sky



Night sky,
You take my breath away
And also give me breath.
Darkness envelops the earth,
Sky and earth fold into one;
You hide the folly of men and women.

Under the night sky
The earth is foreground,
Humanity's ways fade into the background.
Unfathomable shadows and shapes;
I wonder at the mystery this tree holds,
The unknown in the soil under my feet.
What secrets does the land hold?
Truths both simple and complex;
Truths human eyes sometimes revel in,
Truths human eyes sometimes cannot see.

Earth, air, night sky,
You witness and form part of the ways of women and men
And you also stand apart.
So much greater, so much more
Than the worlds which we construct in our own minds.

I take this time to bathe in your grace;
I smell your scent of dust and bush and firewood,
And I hear your creatures' songs.
An escape from the chatter, the laughter, the sadness I feel.
I drink the silence of your stars,
And I am strengthened and refreshed.