

Lightless Fireflies

by Debbie Li

Fireflies were always quite nice to see, for they glowed ever so brightly

With beauty comes vulnerability.

But people took advantage and trapped them in jars. So that they could enjoy their light for themselves. They planted seeds of houses in what were the jars.

This jar was different than the land they flew in, the land they called *c̣ əsnaʔəm*. They came to the small village and infected the fireflies with diseases, and viruses that they were unfamiliar with.

Many fireflies lost their light, forgot how to glow.

In *c̣ əsnaʔəm* they left their things as they died off.

Those things became decor and display without their permission.

They were placed in the ancient Musqueam Museum.

The fireflies lost their land, lost their culture, lost their village.

Fireflies were always quite nice to see, before they lost their light because you stole it away.