

## FSH COMMENTS 2014 19

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR:** This is a strong piece, and the topic of gun violence deserves attention in every possible forum. Overall, I found the writing to be powerful and moving. I very much liked – if like is the right word – the numerical enumerations of those affected by this accidental shooting. Its simplicity is devastating. The last line about “Icarus falling again and again” is beautiful and heartbreaking.

Two small points, although I understand that rewriting a 55 word story is always hard because of the word count. Nevertheless...

- 1) I was initially confused by the reference to “you have five more.” Where did five come from? I understand you’re trying to build a numerical approach in the piece, but five seemed arbitrary.
- 2) The sentence “Guns are too familiar” seemed weak to me. It is abstract and general. Please think about reworking this.

This work is a good example of how a 55 word piece can provide a succinct and moving commentary on the intersection of medicine and society.

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR:** Overall, I liked this 55 word essay, although a couple of sentences were initially confusing. For example, why *five* more lives? I also that the line “Guns are too familiar” to be rather prosaic – too abstract. The piece picked up when the numbers started being counted – devastating in their simple factualness. I also liked the scope of the piece, which in a few words managed to identify many of those affected by the shooting. The final line referencing Icarus I found beautiful and heartbreaking. The topic of gun violence is a crucial one, and I’d like to see something addressing it in this section.