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## Yankee, 1954

Kianna Novacek

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# Yankee, 1954

*[Kocham cie]*

My grandpa never said *I love you*  
to us, but he never had to say

it because he would always pray  
for us and polka dance when we were feeling blue.

*[Kocham cie]*

He would grab our tattered blankets when we lay,  
while telling us crazy stories we thought couldn't be true.

This is why he never had to really say

that he loved us after every day

or night or the "Annethea get me some coffee!" argue.

*[Kocham cie]*

My grandpa always smelled like fresh bales of hay,  
or the grease from making the tractors brand new.

He did anything for family, and that is why he never had to say.

My more-than-grandpa has passed away,  
that Polish phrase branded to me like a tattoo.

*[Kocham cie]*

was all *dziadosz* really had to say.

## About Kianna Novacek

Kianna Novacek is an undergraduate student, poet, and golfer originally from a small community in Northwest Minnesota. She moved to Grand Forks to continue her education in Kinesiology and to golf, but certainly not for the smell of Simplot. Although she finds her passion in exercise science, she finds herself drawn to poetry and writing. Kianna believes, from one human to another, that poetry help others feel heard and understood.