brilliant minds don’t think alike

intelligence should not
be based solely upon test scores and grade point
averages. i sit in math class next to
sally with a four-point—oh, and feel
like slamming my head against a
desk every time she answers a question
correctly, and gets that smug look of
satisfaction on her face. i’m happy for
her, i really am. but some of us aren’t
fluent in the art of speaking out loud. if you’re
going to grade us, at least grade us at something
we’re good at. i mean, everyone is good at
something, right? there’s a quote by albert einstein that
says everybody is a genius. but if you judge a fish by its ability
to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.
i find this to be true. and while public speaking and
mathematics are not and have never been my forte, writing
comes easily to me as though i had ink in my veins rather than blood. my
brother is all math and hard numbers. my
best friend is more amazing at music than
anyone else and some kids excel at sports. your grades
should not reflect your intelligence. some people do
not work well under the pressure of a test. they could be the
smartest person in the world, but crack in a stressful situation.
to live in fear of messing up one time is torture. i hate thinking that
because i failed one test, i will never get out of here. so grade
me on how fast i can write a poem. i wrote this one in five minutes.
test me on my use of literature, and my
ability to quote something from every
single book i’ve read. but don’t ask me
to tell you the method for solving
a quadratic equation.

i.n.w.