

**NATE MARSHALL**  
**Chicago high school love letters**

**first day of school**

**1**

i would take the bus  
to you, walk through  
your neighborhood  
& navigate the colors.

**3**

take my student ID  
to lunch. it's clipped  
in the corner for  
free.

**homecoming weekend**

**46**

come to the dance.  
my hands wand  
around your frame  
searching for danger.

**58**

you can wear my letterman jacket  
home. if it's the wrong shade  
of blue then imagine it around  
you while it sits in your locker.

**winter break**

**131**

i would  
airbrush  
you on  
a t-shirt.

**156**

i would fight for you  
like my shoes or my  
boys or my indescribable  
need for contact.

**spring break**

**214**

i know all the museum  
free days by heart. you  
the exhibit i steal touch  
from in shadow.

**226**

i'll stay with you  
forever. even after  
the streetlights come  
on or don't work.

**prom weekend**

**320**

jump the broom  
or turnstile. no car  
except kiss. no ride  
except want.

**331**

this song is dedicated  
to you: either r. kelly  
or r. kelly. love  
ballad or elegy.

**graduation**

**333**

you can  
hold me  
before i  
disappear.

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The numbers in "Chicago high school love letters" represent the homicides during the 2007-8 Chicago Public Schools academic year.