

Poem for Jordan

Best friend,
cosmic baby,
your river name
is my passageway
to joy
and nearly
freedom.

John Tuschen

(9 lines / 109-character w/ spaces total)

what question,
or worry, buried
in memory,
could not be eased
in the stillness
of this morning?

an excerpt from “Paris Morning”

John Tuschen

(9 lines / 133-character w/ spaces total)

THE SUN AROSE

The sun arose when we weren't aware.
The sun is a rose. The sun is a rose.
How can we fail?
How can we fail to love?
How can we fail to love the light!

Andrea Musher

(7 lines / 178-character w/ spaces total)

Something sacred is always being paved over
Something ancient is always returning to teach us
if we can learn

an excerpt from “A Tinker’s Prayer for Madison’s
150th Birthday”

Andrea Musher

(6 lines / 222-character w/ spaces total)

Lightening Girl

Struck with power
standing wet under a solitary tree
in a wide green pasture.

Even electric bolts
didn’t scare her, slow her down none
just bothered her some.

Flashing out of her mouth
for the rest of her life
were words that shocked and stunned.

Fabu

(11 lines/ 258-character w/ spaces total)

Cuando El Niño Tiene Un Buen Crecimiento

Es un maravilloso tesoro de incalculable valor
ver cómo el entendimiento despierta suavemente
dentro del alma de un niño
ver como fluye hacia fuera, puro y brillante
reflejado en ojos grandes y brillantes.

Fabu (Nydía Rojas)

(7 lines / 261-character w/ spaces total)

Summer's 'To-Do List

Wade in clear water. Pick
fresh fruit. Plant flamingoes.
See one outdoor movie.
Get caught in rain. Go dancing.
Learn a new constellation.
Cheer for the moon. Collect
what my pockets can hold.
Laugh.

Sarah Sadie Busse

(10 lines/ 238-character w/ spaces total)

Little Dance

Step left. Step right.
Breathe.
Step right. Step left.
Turn.
Step left. Step right.
Laugh.
Step right. Step left.
Leap.

Sarah Sadie Busse

(10 lines/ 146-character w/ spaces total)

neighborhood repair

failure risks include settlement,
root damage, insufficient slab thickness,
inadequate expansion gaps, lack
of drainage, cycles of freeze
& thaw, heavy loads. ask me
to map the patched cracks
in my concrete. tell me about yours.

Wendy Vardaman

(9 lines/ 260-character w/ spaces total)

ode to sidewalk chalk

strike what's written
in sunset. bring a neighbor.
orange wide stripes. purple
a winter lake, a dog's spots. drag
fuchsia down the edge of everything
in waves & dot it with lavender & lemons.
cover the colorless. make your mark.

Wendy Vardaman

(9 lines/ 262-character w/ spaces total)

Monroe Street 900 years ago

walking towards the direction
of Lake Wingra,
it was a sea of reeds and wild rice
one had to bypass several effigy mounds
that not only celebrated death, but life
a reminder that history never gets lost
as often as it seems
we try to bury it with progress.

Oscar Mireles

(10 lines / 290-character w/ spaces total)

Monroe Street History

Ken Kopp's grocery store
Dardanelles Restaurant
Edgefest
Monroe Street Fire Station
Dudgeon Elementary School
Mallatt's Pharmacy
The past . . . sometimes . . .
no other words are needed

Oscar Mireles

(10 lines/ 218-character w/ spaces total)
