How Do You Stay Home?

Daisy Wallace
University of Minnesota Duluth, dmwallac@d.umn.edu

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How Do You Stay Home?
For years I’ve tried
to slow down

breathe in
out
I tried to enjoy
living
like the last drops of a molasses bottle
slowly
taking
time

but life was a rushing current before the lockdown.

And now
in order to not count the minutes ticking by,
I must find
that summer magic
of childhood

those days stretched long
full of story

when life was a meandering stream
with no teachers, no parents, no schedule

those days when I could watch Barbies and GI Joes
live out feuds, intrigue,
and affairs hidden behind the veil of a bed’s dust ruffle
or rappel into the washing machine to fight the dreaded Agitator.

I turn off my phone & tv
I sit
breathe

let myself be
simply, plainly
unentertained

and

if I

breathe

softly

and

slowly

enough

I can hear inspiration’s wings
skim across calm water
joining me on the bank
to pass the time.