

Afternoon Beach

1 Home is hot.
2 The family fries
3 until we summon
4 the energy
5 to pull on stretchy suits,
6 grab towels,
7 and pile into the car,
8 which is an oven.
9 We drive
10 until a roar of waves
11 taunts us
12 from a parking lot.

13 On the beach
14 sand and sun
15 blaze hot,
16 but welcome breezes
17 play with my hair
18 until I pull it back,
19 away from their grasp.
20 I shed shorts and shirt
21 and
22 sprint to the water.

23 I push my way out
24 against crashing waves
25 and
26 dive
27 into
28 pure
29 cool
30 salty
31 pleasure.

32 Silence.

33 Silence until
34 I surface.
35 The roar
36 of ocean
37 fills my ears.

38 I stand,
39 wipe salt from my eyes,
40 and dive through a wave,
41 then ride the next
42 as it races to shore.
43 I get knocked flat,
44 float over more waves,
45 let them
46 push me
47 pull me
48 take me wherever
49 they want to go.
50 I dive over, under,
51 through.
52 I lose the time.

53 And suddenly
54 I've lost the time---
55 we need to leave.
56 I stagger onto the fiery sand
57 and wait
58 for my land legs to return.
59 My hair is salty.
60 My skin is sticky
61 as I survey my crashing waves
62 my oceansky
63 my blue
64 beneath blue.

--Molly Jordan