

Summer Poetry
By Laura Hedderman

It's the hottest day we've had for a while
The velvety air flutters around my skin
Pennsylvania sunshine surprises us
Eighty-four degrees but the pavement is cool against my soles
which haven't felt shoes for the past three months

The sprinkler runs as I smell the metal in the water from the hose
They say the more of it you drink the stronger you are,
we're invincible

I feel that there is no place where I have ever felt the same fresh energy,
Where snow melts to dampen soil in time for summer
and people venture into their backyards
in the spring
to eat potato salad and plan Fourth of July festivities

I hear songs that have been played on the radio for years,
repetitive choruses
I would never listen to them unless I was singing with others
They feel like chants
About our youth, of our memories
I'll never forget the times we sang these meaningless tunes like we knew what they meant
like we cared

The roller coaster we ride on doesn't feel different than our lives
We learned that there are questions to be asked
and the years will give us answers

The employees at the grocery store
Ring up boxes of popsicles
They'll melt on the car ride home
Our sugar rushes last until the leaves turn

Summer feels like poetry
We've made it through the dead of winter
and the uncertain promise of spring
This is our reward

We've jumped over the fine lines
in the name of growing up

The 8pm breeze resembles words
We think about beautiful times while we create more
As we sit by the fire
Singing together
poems from our favorite songs

We need each other now
We need to allow ourselves to be

Our happy place sits where the sky meets the asphalt
The road where I first scraped my knee
The one that taught me how to cry and get over it
The road where I first thought to run away from home, thinking it could get better than this

Walking on the road I've been on many times
There are new babies playing in the yard where we once played
May they feel the summer poetry
Like we once did