

Evelyn's Covenant

Maybe Evelyn, nine, had a pink glitter backpack
Matching pencil pouch, plastic lunch box
Maybe her mom packed roll-ups, Scooby Snacks
Maybe she cut the crust off her sandwich

Maybe Evelyn rode to school with her dad
Her face filling up his rearview as they sang
Along with Taylor Swift or laughed about Bluey.
Maybe she left a Barbie shoe in the backseat.

Maybe the teacher's face lit up when Evelyn
Brought her a flower or aced her times tables
Maybe Evelyn was ready for her spelling test or telling
A joke or Looking for her pink eraser.

Maybe she never heard the glass shattering.
Maybe she could smell crayons and pencil shavings.
Maybe someone was holding her hand
Maybe she didn't feel it
When the bullet shredded her brain.