

Metronome

Clean unlined slice of paper
Cuts like a dull knife
So many words expressions phrases in the English language
Make it hard to be original

Hearing nothing but the moisture evaporating on the maple leaves outside
Feeling the history of the cedar walls into the room
Soft breathing
A thud from upstairs
Soft chirping of hungry crickets
Echoing voices
A doe rustles through a yard

Smooth cool scent of roasting coffee.

Following the trail of a crack in the plaster

A leaf falls from a birch

A caterpillar takes a slow deliberate journey across a doorstep.
An osprey swoops in to bathe in the pool.

Humans begin to shuffle uncomfortably
Oh my look at the time
Where's my iPhone
Where's my charger
Is my friend in Italy having fun?
Should I buy my niece that iWatch
Did I RSVP to the wedding

Why the compulsion to produce, to outdo, to strive harder than yesterday?

The turkeys and cows and moose and eagles don't measure
Seconds
Minutes
Hours
Weeks
Months
Years

Decades
centuries

If only humans could follow form.

Wednesday

In late afternoon
A shadow falls
Fred parks his yellow VW bus at the shed
Mops his brow
Calls inside
What's for dinner?

Whistles to his Lab Elmer
And gives him a treat to chew.
Wipes his work boots at the stoop.
Pushes the massive brass handle
Which slips out of the one ragged screw holding it in.

The kitchen is warm and inviting
With hand me down linens and chipped China
A cracked mug from that Red Sox game.

Janice stands by the stove
Singing a random tune
Dum de de dum dum de de Dee

How my best girl he asks
Feeling better she answers
Those darn pills. They sap my energy.

Too much to expect them to work instantly, my dear.

He extracts a Heineken from the fridge
And disappears into the dark hall.

Smile

As in smile tho ur heart is breaking
Smile even tho you're faking
Million dollar business deals
Are cemented with a smile.
Humans smile in agreement just to avoid conflict.

A smile can be a reflex
A polite response to a hackneyed joke
Precursor to a belly laugh
Smiles are as contagious as chicken pox.
Is there a vaccine to prevent them?

Adam smiled at Eve
And the human race began.

A smile is a frown turned upside down.

It takes 42 muscles to smile.
What a workout for your face.
People who bear their teeth
When they smile are insincere.
Or downright aggressive.

A smile turns on your charm.

Murderers smile.

Mona Lisa smiled.

Psychopaths out smile everyone.

A smile is the key that fits the lock of everyone's heart.

Smiles are free at some restaurants but don't remind them when the tables are full.

Life is still worthwhile if you just smile.

Questioning the Armadillo

Houston July 1980

Humidity: 78%

Boyfriend: Studying to become a priest.

Job: Telemarketing home repairs aka talking to lonely old folks
and selling cowboy boots

Mother: 24-hr job running preschools

MTV debuts

Did video kill the radio star?

Weekend in Dallas, cleanest city in America

Do they scrub the buildings daily?

bright Yellow roses

red white and orange Zinnias

Pink Gerber daises

Blooming in the Botanical garden

It's just a diversion.

Revelations at the Jung institute

Who was I in a previous life?

Day trip to Refugio with my cousin

Mom's boyfriend driving the van in the sideways soaker

Should you drive days after a circumcision?

Changing the station to hear Jefferson Starship Miracles

Already wanting another shower

Why does the armadillo cross the road?

Skidding off the road to avoid him

they sure as shoo fly pie love highway 180

And legs up means they're sleeping or dead

Curious mammal

Hard shelled for protection

Tiny beak like face

Shelled spine

Bird like paws

As common in Texas as a rooster in the hen house.