

Wilderness House Literary Review 4/4

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Take a Ride in Summer

My head was out the window
That humid summer day
Wind in my ears
Feeling like a bird in flight.

The grass below a blur
All things close are streaking by
Taking a ride
Driving in shade
Trying to stay cool.
no A/C
Dad says
Unhappy
The house is hot
The car is too
So run the fans
Windows rolled down
We'll take a ride.

He'll drive the road along the river
Where the springs rise from the ground
Here comes the cool spot
Can you feel it?
And he'll slow down.

He'll take the road out to Jacomo
Watch out for deer
There's a rabbit
And the lake has sailboats
Just like he had
When he was young.

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I'll point to fancy houses
Mowed lawns like checkerboards
Some have fountains
And rock gardens
Lit at night.

But as I'm looking
Dad's voice grows bitter
He sees the castles too
 People like us
 We don't live here
 We don't belong.

And he begins to drive away
I didn't understand
It's getting dark
Soon they'll be nothing left to see.