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## Boundaries

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## Boundaries

if i could lie down

lean on one elbow

and suck at the marrow of the world,

it would be in that space

between wave and sand

or along the border with mexico

smack-dab in the cyclone

of puberty

or sliding from wakefulness into sleep

the edge is where i want to be

where fire and chaos clash with sweet

where the struggle with self leaves one weak

and the owl devours the mouse

finding energy in contradiction

places where ideas and words

really matter

where tipping points move

unsettled and raw,

searching for roots, colors and textures

for holes in barbed-wire mental fences

places that hold the wonder of equipoise

between high tide and low

between evening and night

between peace and rage

places that embrace life, hint of death

and the mouse escapes the owl

-Margaret S. Mullins

**Margaret S. Mullins** lives in Baltimore, Maryland. She is the author of *Family Constellation* (Finishing Line Press,) editor of *Manorborn 2009: The Water Issue* (Abecedarian Press) and a Pushcart Prize nominee. Her work has appeared in *Alehouse*, *Creekwalker*, *New Verse News*, *The Sun*, and *Writer's Almanac*, among others, and been read by Garrison Keillor on NPR.