

## HOLDING ON FOR DEAR LIFE



Sun splashed on everything, everywhere, making eyes squint to see through vapors rising up from the horizon like a mirage, eyes meeting the harsh glare of what was frozen in that moment – and what was soon to be.

Holding fast to that moment, a young life clings to a burning desire to stop forward motion long enough to see her way through to another summer, when she could stand tall all on her own, peering through the haze of more summer days to come.

Alas, the bright glare of daylight on a warm summer day could not wash away what lurked inside the cold metal shrouds masquerading as walls in the place where she slept, concealing the abominable thing hiding in the shadows beneath her bed.

Her dreams of bright summer days are cold comfort to her now.

DAY 25 PROMPT: Find a photograph that includes people who are or have been important in your life. Notice what else is in the photo. What's in the background? What objects are present? Are the people holding anything in their hands? Write a poem that uses these details as symbols to tell the story of the people in the photo. For example, maybe you want to write a poem about your grandmother's strong work ethic. Maybe in the photo she's wearing a starched white shirt. You could use the sharpness and precision of the shirt to symbolize your grandmother's focus and hard work.

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**Craft tip:** Most poems include both concrete and abstract imagery. Concrete imagery is usually sensorial—sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and tactile sensations—and it usually gives the reader a sense of the literal, external landscape of the poem. Abstract imagery is often metaphorical and connective. It connects the literal, external landscape with the internal, emotional landscape of the poem. In today's poem see if you can choose concrete images (sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and tactile sensations) that are *also* symbolic and connective. In other words, try to choose images that give the reader a sense of the internal, emotional landscape of the poem while also describing the literal scene. For example, a yellow raincoat in a poem about joy feels symbolic of the poem's emotional reality, since yellow is a color we associate with happiness. A brown raincoat might not seem as intentional and symbolic. By choosing the color yellow, the poet can convey both the literal scene and the emotional heart of the poem.

CREDITS/BIBLIO: