

## Parenting in a Pandemic

Dear diary—all of us sheltered here—working from home  
with the kids home too in online school, but “do not fall behind,”  
how might we get through?

No one dares to ask, *What's next?*  
With this virus in May 2020, it's step by step.

Our weekly car trips to exchange the kids are permitted by the Maryland  
Governor's Order, thankfully, so we can share in the co-parenting.  
Better with buffer, we're skilled at divvying.

Awkward as stick figures of a child's picture,  
we step out of the blur of getting things done.

Let's meander after lunch. Stroll once more after dinner. A slapstick,  
a binge of kickball, a tournament of cards, glancing at each other,  
shoulders shrug with questions.

In the slow time, more time.  
In this home time, our time.  
In this spring time:  
a cycle  
    seeded to bloom,  
    song-pregnant air  
    igniting singers:

We are a chorus  
for a blind smile.