

Bloomington

Hot
humid
southern Indiana summers,
where the air is so thick
it'd take
half a day
for your hair to dry
and people give up
hanging out their clothes
in late June

During the day
the town moves more slowly
melting before your eyes,
but at night
the Women's shelter
overflows in fast forward, with
red-eyed
sweaty-haired women who
"just need somewhere to stay
for tonight."

This was my symphony,
the day-time largo
and the evening allegro
and me
waiting for the fighting to stop
hoping it would
'cause it was 95 degrees
and that's too hot
to be sharing a twin bed
with my sister.

-Jane Stevens