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## Relationships

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# Relationships

Caroline Johnson

A yellow goldfinch on a tall sunflower  
pulls seeds from the brown center,  
gathering what he needs, while  
every day life slips away from us,  
a smile lost, a hug that never quite  
reaches outstretched arms. We yearn  
for symbiotic relationships—a nod of  
the head, the ring of the cell phone,  
horseback riding with a friend, easy  
conversation with a cup of Java.  
We need the familiar among the strange,  
turning on a light switch in a darkened room,  
petting a cat whose whiskers graze your hand,  
understanding a sentence in a foreign tongue,  
cutting your knee only to have a nurse dress it.  
Losing your senses only deepens the connection—  
a Braille book describing sunsets, a signed  
conversation about Spanish infused Jazz.