Take Heart
A Conversation in Poetry

Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,
Maine Poet Laureate

In this poem Marcia Brown, Portland’s poet laureate, remembers the most dramatic 50 minutes of her eighth-grade geography class.

Geography
by Marcia F. Brown

In eighth grade, Matilda Savino held us in her thrall by dangling for 50 minutes of Geography one loafer precariously from her toe.

Right knee crossed over her left.
tiny skirt high on her thighs,
she let the well-worn loafer loll back and forth, back
and forth, clinging against physics to her otherwise bare
and shapely foot.

Mr. Perkins couldn’t keep his eyes off it and forgot the names of continents, while we all sat in shocked, delicious anticipation -- waiting to record the seismic shift of one shoe dropping, then the other.

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