Pencil Sharpener
by Zoë Ryder White

I think there are a hundred bees
inside the pencil sharpener
and they buzz
and buzz
and buzz
until my point
is sharp!

Ceiling
by Zoë Ryder White

The ceiling
is the sky
for the classroom.
Inside My Heart
by Zoë Ryder White

Inside my heart lives
one birthday party
two jazz bands
three wrestling puppies
four dancing birds
five laughing babies
six blasting spaceships
seven lucky fireflies and
a sky full of stars.
Robin
by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

An artist lives in our old tree.
She works with mud and wood and fur
to build a sturdy twig collage.
Her masterpiece is small like her.
Blue eggs will nestle in this art
framed by branches way up high.
An artist lives in our old tree.
Her museum is the sky.
Maples in October
by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

They rustle to each other –
I think today’s the day.
Wind is getting colder.
Geese are on their way.
Oak is throwing acorns.
It’s time to go ahead.
I think today’s the day.
Let’s change our leaves to red.
Waiting Room Fish
by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

Like small
orange birds
we watch you
watch us.
We peek between
plastic plants.
We open wide
for food flakes.
We wave our tails
inviting you
to join us
for a swim.
Knowing

by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

When my sister had her tonsils out
our dog slept on her bed.
He always sleeps with me
so my feet missed his furry circle.
He slept with my sister
wagging his tail against her wall
shedding gray on her blue quilt
loving her with his warm weight.
I was alone
until all twelve popsicles were gone
and my sister ate a real dinner.
That night his furry circle returned.
How did he know?
This Morning
by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

I am pouring milk
from a clear jug
into a Cheerio sea
the milk is white
the bowl is blue
my mind roams
far and free
in a green field
with brown cows
who made this milk
for me
Love
by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

My kitten has cuddly breath
the boy said
as the two fell asleep
ear to ear
paw to hand.
Laundry Hugging
by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

I always hug
my underwear
as soon as it is dry.
I hug all the laundry.
Let me tell you why.
If you open up
your dryer
as soon as it is done
your pile of clothes
will warm you
like a blanket
made of sun!