

Robert Demaree

For Jeremy at Fifteen

The life of a friend, a teammate
Ended
Suddenly, inexplicably:
You honored him by playing hard,
By standing for him
In the chancel,
All of you, your uniforms
Still damp from trying,
As if you did not already know
Of the fragileness of life.

Friday Before Labor Day, 2014

Mild blue ripple on the pond,
Morning breeze.
The sun warms my back,
Reflects brightly on the bow
Of the orange kayak:
You'd think we were safe.
But beyond the pines along the shore
The world waits, drums its fingers:
The grisly death
Of the young American in Syria;
It shouldn't make it worse
That he was from our town,
But it does.

We learned today that our friend Dean
Has passed away at Golden Pines,
Refuting a notion of mine
That this would only happen
To people we didn't know.

Newark Newsstand

An old postcard of Main Street,
Newark, Delaware,
The Five & Ten, the Newsstand.
Now, twenty-five years later,
I see them on that street
Where we have left them off
After breakfast at the Deer Park Inn,
Our daughter, starting graduate school,
Her friend,
Who will be her fiancé
And then her husband
And then the father of our grandchildren,
Themselves about to leave home.
Coffee, Mozart gently in the background,
The Sunday *Times*,
The cool scent of newsprint.

Robert Demaree is the author of four book-length collections of poems, including *Other Ladders*, published in June 2017 by Beech River Books. His poems received first place in competitions sponsored by the Poetry Society of New Hampshire and the Burlington Writers Club, and have appeared in over 150 periodicals. A retired educator, he resides in Wolfeboro, N.H. and Burlington, N.C.