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## In Green Pastures

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## **\*In Green Pastures**

by Mike Vanden Bosch

My mother could not see a Holstein cow  
with her calf in our Iowa pasture  
without saying when we'd pass, "How beautiful!"  
At first I looked but later  
barely turned my head to see.

I knew where beauty was.  
I'd seen glossy brochures of the Grand Canyon  
and Yellowstone and whined because  
Mom couldn't take me there to see them.  
If she had pined for faraway beauty  
as I had pined, I thought,  
then her soul might touch mine.

Much later I traveled far to behold  
Yellowstone's geysers and the Grandest Canyon.  
My heart was stirred—but less I fear  
than my mother's had been at seeing  
a black and white cow and her calf eating grass  
just east of the crick in our green Iowa pasture.

\*This poem was published in the 1993 edition of *Lyrical Iowa*.