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## First Day of Summer

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# First Day of Summer

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*Leah Zuidema*

Chairs and desks line the college halls,  
tipped bottoms up like a tornado drill in progress.  
T-shirted 19 year olds wash windows and walls  
energetically: it is early  
in their custodial tenure.  
The heat was turned off last Friday  
(by calendar's decree),  
and now we faculty burrow in  
to damp, chilly offices.  
We are thankful, we say, for  
time to read to think to write.  
We imagine ourselves such hermits,  
yet whispers about campus politics  
bring us popping out like prairie dogs  
sniffing the wind.  
Not till later—  
full of summer sun—  
will we bask in the warmth  
of books, time, friendship.