



Author Asks

*from Paula Bohince,
author of **The Children***

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- 1** The word “brideliness” is used to describe a time in a life cycle. How would you describe this period? Where is it manifest in *The Children*?
- 2** In “The Dogwood,” there is a line that goes “Misery gave us solace.” Do you think this attitude applies across the book?
- 3** In the poem “The Children,” a presumably older “we” puts the young lovers’ left-behind rave accoutrements into their own hands and mouths. Why?
- 4** Nostalgia can be complex emotion. How would you define this feeling? How does it seem enacted in the poem “Nostalgic”?
- 5** “Flood” is written as a pantoum and without punctuation. What is the effect of these structural choices on your reading of the poem?
- 6** The poem “Wildwood Diptych” makes several references to Rilke’s “Archaic Torso of Apollo.” How do you see my poem as a response to his?
- 7** In the poem “The Froth of the Tides and the Further Out,” I assert that “Beauty rescues,” but then immediately ask, “Is that true?” Do you think it’s true?
- 8** In “Silverfish,” I write that poems of mine were “forgettable because they held no images.” For you, what makes a poem memorable? Is it imagery or something else?
- 9** How does the collection’s title, *The Children*, encompass larger themes of the book?
- 10** If you’ve read my first book, *Incident at the Edge of Bayonet Woods*, what seems to be a continuation and what seems a departure?

Writing Exercises

Exercise A

The poem “Man on Horseback” was conceived because I read that it was a name for a type of mushroom. Try looking through names of plants and flowers to see if any names strike you. Write a poem that melds the literal subject with its figurative name.

Exercise B

The poem “Snowy River Visions” has echoes of Stevens’ “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird.” Read this classic poem and discover your own ways of turning over an image.

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