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## Recession

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## **Recession**

by Stephanie Gorsek

My grandfather  
once told me that  
The Great Depression  
taught him a lot about joy  
and ironically  
it gave him a lot of work to do.

I guess he has that alphabet soup to thank:  
WPA and CCC and FDR  
and ABC  
and other alphabets  
that come in three.

Somewhere,  
past the roads  
near a church  
and tomato garden  
was a park I went to  
my whole life.

At six, I had a spitting contest  
with a girl whose hair  
was chain-link straight.  
She won.

At eight, I was able to master  
the monkey bars  
the adult monkey bars  
the ones that were taller  
than a streetlight.

At twelve, I gained five pounds  
from the atrocious amounts of ice cream  
I managed to guzzle down  
each summer  
by the pool.

At sixteen, my hormones,

exploding like fireworks,  
craved only for the night  
and hide and go seek tag.

At twenty-one, I had to  
make up a story

on why the kiddie slide  
donned a shiny gold stain.  
And I was told  
to drink responsibly.

At twenty-six, she said  
yes  
and challenged me  
to another spitting contest.

She won.

At around . . . fifty-something  
I lost my job  
and tripped over a wordy stone  
in a small dense forest  
of the park.

At that moment, I remembered  
my grandpa.