**Earth has Attachment Issues**

Valerie Nies

During its infancy Earth wasn’t held

for as long as it needed by the Milky Way.

I mean it wasn’t anybody’s fault.

The galaxy has 500 billion celestial bodies

to tend to, wailing for milk.

Perhaps if Earth were hugged

by rings like Saturn, or if God

hadn’t walked out, or it had not suffered

from effects of solar nebula postpartum depression,

we inhabitants would float untethered.

But Earth has attachment issues, love-crave clinginess

so encompassing that it uses gravity to latch

the boots of 28 billion human feet to its surface, root

three trillion trees to its core, dock maritime vessels

to ports, bathtub shelter two-ton blue whales,

draw dragonflies to meadows, seduce city sky

-scrapers, captivate crickets, attract apples

to the ground, enchant everyone to stay a little longer,

planted in bed, hit snooze, snuggle, more

please, play hooky, roll beneath the covers

like meteorites tumbling

their way home.