

Zipporah Breunig

Gradation

I.

false start.

Draw too deep breath.

Linger too long.

take back break

neck speed one

two don't stop ask

once no twice

Forget.

Slowly.

Forego solid food.

Count to ten.

hold on elastic pill

tight stretch

release sharp notime

fixing not broken not ever

II.

toxic train track

metal waste raindrop

incarcerated too long too late

no reply.

faintly.

Risk until one always.

Any ways. Anyways.

fastforward. Visual rewind

incongruity. Incongruous.

Inferior absolutes. Taste

lingering remnant after

gauzy impossibility.

Ending. Search mystified.

Final helping of emptiness

III.

outstretched hand your hand

grasping reminding

reciting the parts

you like a litany to me

[everything that I can still remember]

singing your life like a

prayer

staccato

pestilence petulance

precision

lost among

waves of time

this time.