

那年雨停的傍晚：我记住了一条会发光的路

一

我要讲一个傍晚

讲一场下在放学前的雨

雨下得急，下课铃都听不清

我们挤在门厅，数雨滴

数着数着，雨小了

数着数着，雨停了

二

老师抬头看看天

说：排队，出发

我们撑开伞，伞上还滴水

嗒，嗒，像一支慢吞吞的乐队

走到巷口，最后一滴

从伞尖跳下来，跟我回家

三

雨停了，路变了

平常那条上学路

变成一条会发光的路

柏油黑得发亮，像新铺的绸子

路边的叶子举着小水珠

一颗一颗，替太阳保管光

墙根的小蘑菇一夜之间撑开伞

白伞柄，褐伞面，一丛一丛

比我们撑的伞还小，还认真

蜗牛在墙皮上散步，一路银色

像写了一行看不见的字

四

水洼一路排开

像谁在路上撒了一地星星

我专挑亮的地方走

一脚踩碎一颗

踩碎了，它眨眨眼，又亮了

同桌笑我走路像数糖

我就数给她看：一、二、三

五

走到桥边，有人喊

快看，彩虹！

彩虹挂在学校屋顶上

红的一段最长，紫的一段最短

像谁把颜料桶打翻在天上

我们回头望了又望

它不跑，我们也不走

有人掰手指，数它的颜色

数到第七个，忘了第一个

值日生背着书包站住

忘了记黑板上的作业

卖豆腐的伯伯挑起担子

也仰头看了好一会儿

六

彩虹陪我们过了桥

陪我们拐过豆腐店

陪到岔路口，它才慢慢变淡

像一块糖化在天里
我舔舔嘴唇，好像真的甜的

七

那天晚上我梦见
水洼全都浮起来，挂在半空

每一洼里都装着我们班

彩虹当滑梯，滑过去

又滑回来

八

现在每次下雨

我都等着它停

雨一停，我就跑出门

找水洼，找彩虹

找那条会发光的路

九

明天还要上学

要是明天下雨，就更好了

雨停在上学路上

彩虹挂在校门口

水洼排好队，等我们踩

我拉着同桌，数给她看

一、二、三，一路数到校铃响

That Evening When the Rain Stopped: I Remember a Road That Glowed

One

I want to tell you about an evening

About a rain that fell before school let out
It rained so hard we could barely hear the bell
We crowded in the entryway, counting raindrops
Counting and counting, the rain grew soft
Counting and counting, the rain stopped

Two

Our teacher looked up at the sky
And said: Line up, let us go
We opened our umbrellas, still dripping
Plop, plop, like a slow little band
By the mouth of the alley, the very last drop
Jumped off the tip of my umbrella and came home with me

Three

The rain stopped, and the road changed
The ordinary road to school
Became a road that glowed
The asphalt shone black, like freshly laid silk
Leaves along the way held up tiny water beads
One by one, keeping the light safe for the sun
Little mushrooms by the wall opened their umbrellas overnight
White stems, brown caps, cluster after cluster
Smaller than our umbrellas, and more serious about it
A snail strolls along the wall, leaving a silver trail
Like a line of writing nobody can read

Four

The puddles lined up all along the way
As if someone had scattered stars on the road

I walked only on the bright spots
One step, one star broken
Break it, and it blinks and shines again
My deskmate laughed: You walk like you are counting candy
So I counted for her: one, two, three
Five
At the bridge, someone shouted
Look, a rainbow!
The rainbow hung over the school roof
The red stripe longest, the purple stripe shortest
As if someone spilled a paint bucket in the sky
We turned back and looked and looked
It did not run, so neither did we
Someone bent their fingers, counting its colors
By the seventh they forgot the first
The class on duty stopped with their schoolbag on their back
And forgot to write the homework on the blackboard
The tofu uncle set down his carrying pole
And tilted his head up to watch for a good while too
Six
The rainbow walked with us across the bridge
Walked with us past the tofu shop
Only at the crossroads did it slowly fade
Like a candy dissolving in the sky
I licked my lips; it seemed truly sweet
Seven
That night I dreamed

All the puddles floated up and hung in midair
Each one held our whole class inside
We used the rainbow as a slide, sliding over
And sliding back
Eight
Now every time it rains
I wait for it to stop
The moment it stops, I run outside
To find the puddles, to find the rainbow
To find that glowing road
Nine
School again tomorrow
And if it rains tomorrow, even better
Let the rain stop on the road to school
Let the rainbow hang at the school gate
Let the puddles stand in line, waiting for our feet
I will take my deskmate's hand and count for her
One, two, three, all the way to the school bell