

RADICAL TEACHER

A SOCIALIST, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

Poetry

Still

by Mary E. Cronin



SELF-PORTRAIT SAMUEL JOSEPH BROWN, JR. AMERICAN CA. 1941. MET ONLINE COLLECTION

Still

Let me step aside
from the reading wars
and data sheets
and progress reports.

Let me be still,
still here
still open
to the wonder of you
learning to read,
making sense
of Frog
and Toad,
and their bickering way of loving.

Let me listen
to you stumble over words,
trip on the cobblestones
of *afraid* and *friend*,
careening
down the path of
story.

Let me be part of
your story.
How you arrived here,
wide-eyed,
wary,
angry.

And now you read,
you laugh,
you sit,
still,
while I bend
to tie the frayed laces
of your shoe.

Mary E. Cronin's Massachusetts teaching career spans 30 years, preschool to college, Boston to Cambridge to Cape Cod. Mary's poetry for adults has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Rise Up Review*, and *Provincetown Magazine*. A Literacy Coach in the Dennis-Yarmouth schools and a dedicated 5 a.m. writer, her poetry for children has appeared in numerous anthologies for young readers. Mary has two children's books under contract, yet to be announced. You can find her at www.maryecronin.com.



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