

#NPM21

Our Here and Now by Marty Gervais

A lone tree has rooted itself
in rocks and soil along the Detroit River
fearing nothing though cold river water
rushes to consume it, overwhelm it
— it is alone and weary but stubborn and fearless
never once giving in, giving up

#NPM21

To Survive by Mary Ann Mulhern

On my river-walk

I see a goose

Wing broken and torn

A duck with a damaged bill

They survive wind, ice and snow

We will too

#NPM21

Candles by Art Williams

In each candle we find light.

In each candle we find hope...

When the match goes to the wick, our breath takes a
pause.

Is it lit? Is it? It is!

There is light.

We breathe again.

#NPM21

Alive by Mary Anne Fenton

Close your eyes

Breathe, Breathe

The gentle wind on your face

The swish of the water

The haha of the seagull

You're alive, you're alive

#NPM21

The Sunshower by Nick Hildenbrand

The sunshower follows,
estranged in the coast of black turret mill,
drift-white angel's nest,
the passenger seat of El's car -
and Detroit River opens her child mouth
to lap the mana sowing.
with sun-basked sailboat balanced on her offing lip.

#NPM21

Home Away From Home by C. Frank Doyle

**My home away from home,
Windsor, Ontario, Canada
at college, if only for a year.
Once a young duckling,
Now a beautiful swan,
Each season of the year!**

#NPM21

Effervescent Utterances

by Cyndi Shepley

The human psyche propels us to continue our solidarity together as one people.

The links of our chain remain solid and intact.

#NPM21

The Tower / Le Château by / par Madeleine LeBlanc

I felt so big at the start
but the taller the tower
the harder they fall
we started out small
built ourselves up together
this time we won't fall apart

Je me sentais si grand au début
mais le château le plus haut
va tomber ainsi plus fort
on commence petit encore
et on reconstruit de nouveau
ensemble on ne sera pas vaincu

#NPM21

Piano Man by Anastasia Kulaga

In the start of life, the boy began small
jumping odd notes, he did not feel tall
he began with sharp sounds, with some falls
by the end, he could stroll
but he did get through it all

#NPM21

Hope / L'Espoir by / par Rebecca Brydon

**Sometimes when life will get rough
And challenges trample you,
Know that progress will be tough,
But facing fears will push through.
Hope will always find a way,
We just need to believe today.**

**Parfois quand la vie devient difficile
Et l'ensemble des défis nous fatigue,
Sachons que le progrès n'est pas facile,
Mais en surmontant nos peurs, on navigue.
L'espoir trouvera toujours un moyen,
Nous avons simplement à croire à demain.**

#NPM21

The Earth's Revolution by Serafina Piasentin
Each turn of the Earth heralds change;
Black is scribbled across the light,
Snow suffocates the golden grains, yet
Each revolution is a fight that ends
With the Sun breaking through and
Among the melt, a sprig of green.

#NPM21

Light by Heather Reid

There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

It is only in darkness we see the stars

Only in darkness we can find beauty amongst the most
mundane.

We will find light at the end of the tunnel once again, but
for now

We lean on each other, and learn to create our own light.

#NPM21

Dark Light by Robin Wilds

don't you know

the moon can't find you

when it's loud

Turn off the lights

or you'll scare the silence away

#NPM21

Imagination Is Key by Maria Ceglie
And there it was, a little mockingbird
confined
inside four scintillating walls crashing.
O does its tender heart want
to play, instead it's left astray.
All it needs is the key to be unfettered.

#NPM21

I CHOOSE by Liz Santos

I Choose to be heard & seen and not silenced & invisible

I Choose to laugh and not cry

I Choose to get up and not fall

I Choose to be strong and not weak

I Choose to live life and not just survive it

#NPM21

one day at a time by Heidy Schumacher
no use to stomp my foot -- nor scowl
in the face of COVID's plunder
so i bake cookies to surprise my friends
call greatly missed great-grand kids
tell them stories of their parents' youth
then lose myself in the magic of books

#NPM21

Rising from the Wreckage by Abby Coutinho
Deserted grocery store aisles
And the virtual void blurring our smiles,
Our voices will not be muffled by pain.
The cries of resolve echoing in our souls,
Prove we are not defined by the hurricane
But rather how we strive to repair the holes.

#NPM21

WAYFINDING by Mark Laliberte

Life's wild zigzags can flutter hearts,
putting on a show no one asked for.

As the world transforms, we sharpen
for change, look for new ways to make
a good map. Let harmony wander in —
you have a lot of ground to cover.

#NPM21

we are not alone by Vanessa Shields
we learn how to love around the virus
our tender missings cling to butterfly wings
traveling between hearts fluttering news
of loss and joy on the curve of resilient
connections it is difficult & painful to
grieve alone but we are not alone in our grief

#NPM21

People with different fortunes by Nora Gorges

But you,
you're powerful.
Be the knife
that cuts through
the night wind.

#NPM21

**The strength of opening the
close directions** by Angelo Yousif

I've seen those highs and lows

it was hard to know where I should go.

**My achievements ran away from each other,
like a child running away from his mother.**

#NPM21

What's Next?

by Christine Paris

What do you want to create

how do you want to emerge from these times?

If you can dream, you can create it!

What is next for you?

#NPM21

Ungiven

by Stephen Pender

**Grief is love ungiven, a remainder of light,
a giving of giving, an unfinished was.**

#NPM21

Need for Nature by Heather McCardell

Sunlight dapples the well-trodden path
my mask the saviour of skin, kept warm.

Birds sing on branches before
flitting away from the scramble of squirrels
and a deer grazes on fresh shoots.
Nature has never been sweeter.

#NPM21

What the World Wants by Rebekah Voegeli

The world got a little quieter,
but maybe it wanted us to listen
to the sounds gone so long unnoticed.

The world got a little darker,
but maybe it wanted us to look
for the light in ourselves, in each other.

#NPM21

In Quarantine by Peter Hrstovec

The days break down,
the light shifting in and out,
the scene changes heralded
by a chorus of birds
riding the wind.

#NPM21

At the Riverside by Mackenzie Gagnier

At the riverside we watch
those ever-rushing currents
and envy their unbound surge;
but still, they remind us of how
that relieving crest is within our reach—
the hopeful never freeze

#NPM21

The World is Forever by Andre Narbonne

Among the statues in Odette Park students on summer stipend toothbrush Detroit off bronze elephants. A five-year-old walks her grandfather. I think the world is forever as I hear her explaining everything.

#NPM21

Recuperate by Michael Lee

Resilience is an attribute held by few people
Because those who stand tall don't expect to fall
But until they are knocked down
Only then do they realize
How easy it is to stay down
And how tough it is to get back up

#NPM21

Tales of a Hero by Emmy Longmoore

We get lost, then beaten,

Then torn apart

We're at a loss for words

Like a story that doesn't start.

We've all got a story to tell

Every day with a new chapter as well.

#NPM21

Resilience by Wafaa El-Tawil

Serene and self confident

Pandemic warriors

Rise like a Phoenix from the ashes

Invincible tenacity, their motto

Near their hearts, they etched “resilience”

God bless our heroes

#NPM21

New Observations by Victoria Hecnar

I have been paying attention to things that I was once too busy to notice.

The way sun glitters on fresh snow,
the song a bird performs,
the taste of air following rainfall—
and how they were here all along.

#NPM21

City of Voices by Marie Groundwater-Pottle

**Every day a new chance
to find a way forward
in a city, not built with brick,
but with the voices of people
who keep saying, “We can do it –
We have done it before!”**

#NPM21

The Lonely Light

by Derek Deneau

To live is to spit each drop of potential
you possess at a universe telling you “Give up.”
and in this way sign your name
on the face of creation,
gently murmur back “Never.”

#NPM21

Still Standing by Deborah Koko

I'm still standing
limping, but still walking
you can tear me apart, but my value won't waver
step all over me, but I'll come back stronger
you've made me realize
that I'm shakeable...

#NPM21

PUSH! by Celeste Kurcz

Push! Push!

Breathe.

Inhale into the new.

Exhale the fragility this storm has made us feel.

We are here.

Standing steadfast, together.

#NPM21

Swing and a Miss by Bradley Erdelyan

**Give me everything you've got
Just don't spare the kitchen sink,
I've endured a hurricane of a thousand fires
And tamed a tsunami with an icy kiss,
So step up to the plate, darling
All that noise is just a swing and a miss**

#NPM21

when the mist clears by Aryan Bhati

Like the old shadows stained in memory
like the leaves that dance in the early spring breeze,
I leave my heart to fight on in silence
I leave it to battle strong winds to endure pain and fear,
for only when the mist clears,
and the stars come out to shine will I know deep down inside,
who am I.

#NPM21

Transformations by Samantha Badaoa

make confetti from old scars
turn aching memories into thread
that binds you to all that there is
all that there was
all that there can be
is hope

#NPM21

I Am a Mirror by Mariam Habana

I am a sister, a daughter, a niece.

I am a lion, a dove, a rock.

**Each person helped me unlock
a part of me that couldn't talk.**

I am a mirror.

A reflection of each person.

#NPM21

Eyes Open

by Joanne Laforet

Coat hat mittens outside I go

Smell the crisp cold air, feel the wind

Open my eyes

To all the good that surrounds Me

#NPM21

Resilience by Angelica Lachance-Friedl

**With the ink still drying
on our marriage certificate,
cancer reared its ugly head.
Cancer didn't stop fighting
when the world stopped turning,
but neither did we.**

#NPM21

Silence by Brandon Cormier

Silence comes in layers;

the fading seconds in between songs when the bus shifts
and the body moves to street-bump tempos,

Silence comes in layers;

The creaking echoes collect the weight of every story
replaying itself behind darting glances.

#NPM21

White Widow

by **Julienne Rousseau**

Locked up inside hidden lips with my purpose amplifier unplugged

Virus lurking inside my world like a white whale tormented with rage

Looking out my window I see desolate streets so I open windows and put myself out there

Travelled virtually everywhere and face to face with interior landscapes I never dreamed of knowing

Inside this remote space isolated but safe from the virus, I find myself going viral

Like a busy Latrodectus spinning a world wide web, I will flourish

#NPM21

It's Always the Last Place U Look by Wade Quenneville

It's Always the Last Place U Look

That Missing Sock,

Those Missing Keys

The Strength Inside U that's Hidden

Until it's a Time of Need

It's Always the Last Place U Look

#NPM21

Flowers by Samantha Badaoa

may flowers grow from our throats
their roots buried deep in bodies
meant to live, to ripen, to sprout
history from holy mouths
despite darkness
may the world make bouquets of us all

#NPM21

Resilience by Kai Kristoff

**Resilience is
starting over
after you lose your rough draft**

after you wake up late

#NPM21

To Hope by Sara Scarfone

When bricks crush my chest

I've learned to breathe

When there is no colour

I've learned to paint

When all seems hopeless

I've learned to hope

#NPM21

Patience by Julian Villafuerte

A new season will come and breathe life
In our vineyard and our garden of roses
And invigorate us, the gardeners,
Who nurture this City of Roses
And who tomorrow will find it in bloom,
Flourishing, diversifying.

#NPM21

Change by Alex McCall

We're resilient creatures, we've survived a flood

Our resilient nature, gets us out of the mud

The world is ever changing and our resilience doesn't budge

Maybe we stop the fighting and learn to love and hug

So, we wouldn't have to be such awful resilient thugs

But that is just a dream, one I'm dreaming of

#NPM21

Solitude by Robin Wilds

Pond ice

thaws back to itself

in the sun

as I

thaw back to myself

in Solitude

#NPM21

Purity of Line

by MA | DE

Happiness is ours to make or unmake,
polished glass
or sculpted clay, only as smooth
as the hands are steady.

#NPM21

this kind of resilience by Vanessa Shields
the truth is that this kind of resilience
with its treacherous wavering uncertainty
calls for a strength that speaks a different
language – it is beyond the individual mouth
it comes from witnessing the land – swallowing
the wisdom of its waiting – it is the trees for the forest

#NPM21

embracing by Vanessa Shields

M walks down the hallway

her anxiety reaches me first – a fist into my sternum

she folds into my collarbone, weeping

there are no words to describe the losses

so we let them seep into the silence –

give grief a space in our embrace

#NPM21

the shape of distance by Vanessa Shields

Resilience changes the shape of distance.

It echoes voices across time zones & thrusts

Love over WiFi like laughter over skin. In

this redirection of sharing, our intimacy

reaches through the mask beyond the body.

It hears the flurry of hope as fight song.

#NPM21

resilience assumes togetherness by Vanessa Shields

You can assume that I've lost someone I love.

You can assume that I am afraid. Oh yes, you can assume I've snot-cried in a heap on the floor.

You can assume I've felt similar devastations.

In the togetherness of resilience, you can assume that I am smiling under this mask.

#NPM21

Slowdown by Christine Paris

Between our thoughts, we find peace.

Between our inhale and exhale, calm resides.

Between obligations, we rest and find wellness.

Between expectations, Serenity is born.

And once peace, calm, wellness, Serenity is fully embodied, THAT is when we create a better world!

#NPM21

Higher Ground by Peter Hrastovec

you stand on higher ground

here where the road begins

here where the humble arrive

alone unsettled

from here they leave

self-assured united

#NPM21

Random by Peter Hrastovec

The “best before” date expired,
this stale, usable self waits,
anticipates, breathes.

More useful than useless,
more reliable than reliant.

Hashtag: “glasshalffull”.

#NPM21

Hope for the Future by Victoria Hecnar

Amid these times of solitude and loneliness
I reminisce about moments of sheer bliss.
I think about how fortunate we are to have
joyous moments to look forward to.
In my life where nothing else mattered,
experience was living and who I was with.

#NPM21

Untitled by Laurie Smith

rain clouds the afternoon

yet we all aspire to the brightness

of begonias, impatiens

drawing us out from social isolation.

this is a smile we share

with our eyes.

#NPM21

In These Days by Christopher L.M.

In these days –

He fights for breath, while she breathes easier.

She craves connection, while he welcomes the pause.

Some shoulder burdens, while others turn away.

The best of times. The worst of times.

We stand. We fall. We fight. We live. We hope.