

Ode to Everything Ordinary

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Praise the #2 pencil colored yellow for China
the easy-to-pronounce Chardonnay with its natural sugars
the park bench shaded by maple the Pez dispenser

Praise the ferry from Long Island to Connecticut
forcing the car through the landscape of wine, potatoes, ducks
almost gone almost entirely a memory

Praise the subway token double pane window
turtleneck sweater found at Goodwill
in colors you crave

Praise the cat purring himself to sleep
next to your head on stormy nights when
your husband is out of town and the house
still new still unfamiliar makes noises
you cannot decipher but are sure you saw
in that cop show you watched on TV

Praise the goat the stick shift the washing machine
the bobbin winder old highways still maintained
an old brick fireplace your mother's voice
on the other side of the phone not sounding too old or frail
your nephew who likes to look at bugs

Praise the cane the machine that made it
the people who work the factory the cane inventor
the fact that you still have legs

some don't

Praise the morning if need be the quilt
the bed whatever it takes to get up
get moving start to walk
or whatever what you do can be called
Praise that you woke up