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April 2, 2021

Dear Friends,

It is National Poetry Month. I wanted to share a favorite poem with you. Many of you probably know this poem. Read it as if you are reading it for the first time. Read it aloud. Read it slowly. I hope you like it. Take it into yourself.

Kindness

By Naomi Shihab Nye

Before you know what kindness really is
 you must lose things,
 feel the future dissolve in a moment
 like salt in a weakened broth.
 What you held in your hand,
 what you counted and carefully saved,

all this must go so you know
how desolate the landscape can be
between the regions of kindness.
How you ride and ride
thinking the bus will never stop,
the passengers eating maize and chicken
will stare out the window forever.
Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness
you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho
lies dead by the side of the road.
You must see how this could be you,
how he too was someone
who journeyed through the night with plans
and the simple breath that kept him alive.
Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread,
only kindness that raises its head
from the crowd of the world to say
It is I you have been looking for,
and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.

LINKS YOU MIGHT ENJOY

[Here are 15 new books to watch for this month.](#)

[Never say never](#) to something so fabulous.

The “othering” that happens daily: [America ruined my name for me.](#)

Who is [Augusta Savage](#) and why don't we know her?

You want some [pandemic pants that feel seriously amazing](#)?

UPCOMING CLASSES

“Whiteness, Race, and Social Justice” starts Tuesday, April 6. **Be part of the solution.** [Go here for info.](#)

FREE THINGS!

FREE WRITING PROMPTS FOR 2021 - Do you want to get back to a consistent writing routine in the New Year? I am offering free writing prompts **every Monday-Friday** in 2021. If you'd like to receive them, you can do so in either of the following ways:

By text: Text “writing prompts” to me at 828-248-7513 to sign up for free. Your first prompt will arrive via text the day after you sign up (Monday - Friday).

By email: [Go here](#) to sign up for free. Your first prompt will arrive the day after you sign up (Monday - Friday). We added this method because some of you couldn't participate by text. I hope it is helpful!

I'll see you next Friday from my Orange Desk!

Patti

Sent to: _t.e.s.t_@example.com

[Unsubscribe](#)

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