Child neurology: A trilogy

Nina F. Schor, MD, PhD

I. Newborn

You of bone and sinew
To whom I gave my evening
One fine day
Tell me secrets men of human dialect alone
Will not cannot fathom.
You of flower butterfly of
Dragon sugar fairytale of
Magic
Spin your web and may I not
Escape.
Tell your tale of love and may you
Evermore.

II. Stillborn

You have nerve, young poppet
Giving up before the rest of us had time enough to try.
Flexing muscles undeveloped while the enemy, your lifeblood, called forth reason.
Bravery would see their anguish hear their cries your arms would
Stretch
Against the blackness empty open
Deep
And cause your form to rise again.
You do not even try,
But sleep.

III. Preemie

Nighttime is a long, long time in coming.
You must close your eyes in waiting
Lest the sunlight singe your dreams.
The curtain is best left closed so as not to make
You long for daybreak
I will try to think only darkness along with you
You will make it easier
If you do not grasp my finger quite so tightly when I cry.

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