

Six Years Ago
by Emma Pierce

Six years ago,
a boy was walking home
from his girlfriend's house.
He knew he was past his curfew,
but he simply didn't care.

Six years ago,
a man and wife divorced.
He went to his favorite bar
and drank his life away
until he became numb
and could fool himself
into thinking he had forgotten
about the woman who he thought
loved him back.

Six years ago,
while trying to find a hotel
for the night,
that same man drove into a boy
dressed in a black hoodie
and ripped jeans.
He felt a bump and he drove on
as the boy fought for his life.

Four years ago,
after weeks of sitting
in hard, wooden chairs
in the town's courtroom,
the jury announced the man's verdict
as guilty for vehicular manslaughter
and a sentence in jail for life.

Today,
as he sits in a rotting jail cell,
he wishes he could go back
and stay at that bar just a little bit longer
because maybe,
just maybe,
he could avoid the bump in the road
that ruined his entire life.