The Reading of Books
(for Dr. Kathleen Schlichting)
Pam Pittman

I love the sound of your voice when you read to us.
Your voice, lulling us into the magic
world of a book.
We drift over pictures
of places
and people
who sit on fences and drink lemonade
while ancient grandmothers sew
quilts for their not-yet-born posterity.

Your voice, easing around words and wrapping our ears
with sounds of kittens mewing and moon rising
to its place in a blue black sky,
carries us like babies in warm blankets
through thick, green jungles,
purple meadows,
and stairs in a pale corridor of Germany.

Your voice, assuring us that we, too, can
lure our little ones into those book places,
hums and
sings and
tiptoes into my memory—
I love the sound of your voice when you read to us.

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