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## Rooster

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### Rooster

Rooster,  
Wings flapping  
and body leaping,  
pecking me.  
Cornered against the large wooden steps  
of my grandparents' house  
and I no taller than the fourth,  
screaming at lung capacity.  
The screen door slamming open  
on the front porch,  
rattling the old "Coke" thermometer  
hanging on the outside wall.  
Rushing, clumping steps  
on the wooden circular porch  
suddenly overwhelming all other sounds.  
Grandma and Mama,  
butcher knife and rolling pin.  
Fear always changes.  
Squawking and dashing across the yard,  
toward the hen house,  
a multi-colored bullet  
passing Grandpa  
on the walk  
with a raised shovel.  
The next day,  
Grandma told me  
you moved to Chicago  
to be with your family,  
and she would fix me  
something nice  
to celebrate.