

Sarina Furer

90 Seconds

sirens announce missiles
there's an explosion close enough to our home for me to hear
streets are empty
my heart beats too fast
my children cry
I don't know what to do
I look outside
I send my eldest daughter to the neighbors
I run to the garden and search a hushed sky
we descend
to the bomb shelter
taking the dog
we hear on the radio sirens in Jerusalem. Missiles
dropped
in our county
we wait
my youngest daughter continues to cry
later they tell us that we have a minute
and a half
to reach protected areas
in the South they have
15 seconds
I don't cry
I still don't know what to do

Sarina Furer has lived in Israel for the past 19 years. She teaches writing