

Doug Holder

Girl Reading Vonnegut on a Trailway Bus

So many times I have seen them.
Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle*
cradled in their laps.

On a bus seat
before they openly
declare a major.

Before reading
becomes cursory,
fast, and unsatisfying.

Before the future
is engulfed
by the preponderance of the past.

I don't see the dog ears
on either of them yet
the years are not highlighted
on her smooth face,
the book's passages are unmarked.

Even though we will barrel
into the dust and dusk
of the New England night
the sun has not
set.

Doug Holder is the founder of the Ibbetson Street Press of Somerville, Mass. He teaches writing at Endicott College in Beverly, MA and Bunker Hill Community College in Boston, MA. His work has appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *Poesy*, *Sub-Terrain*, *The Toronto Quarterly*, *The Long Island Review*, *Word Riot* and many others. He holds an M.A. in English and American Literature and Language from Harvard University.