

Linda Lamenza

State of Emergency

Our eyes don't
meet
as we pass the blue
car-washing bucket

and fill and empty
out, again and again
the flood in
our cellar

Urgency sloshes
our shoes

Our stilted
conversation clogs
the drains
Paint peels away
the flawed fieldstone foundation
Water pours through
cracks in the wall
we'd
never
even
noticed
We who still dream
in the same bed
bail now but the flood's on the rise
In just 4 inches
we drown.

Linda Lamenza, whose poems have appeared in *Inside the Dome*, works as a Montessori and reading teacher. Her articles have appeared on the JuniorNet Parents web site, and she has served as editor for several educational publishers. She lives and teaches in Framingham, MA.