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3-14-2017

Untitled

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Recommended Citation

Chennells, Madelyn, "Untitled" (2017). *Integrative Studies Symposium*. 5.
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Untitled

I am from the flatlands

The cornfields

Where we dream of the sanctuary of rolling hills

Of small towns like my mother's

I am from the smell of coffee in the morning

And the music of the sleepers' sighs at night

I am from Friday nights

And high school football I never watched

From friends who used to say, "We'll escape someday."

From going away and coming back

I am from mountain folk and Midwest kin

From the elusive and the tangible

From the way the heart breaks when

It forgets its origins

From doing what I hate

As Paul writes in Romans

And neglecting what I love

I am from sitting on my mamaw's porch in Kentucky

Hearing the trains roll past as evening comes

And wondering

What I have done

To hold Ohio in my hands

I am from not knowing where I am from until I leave

From a Midwest baptism in Appalachian waters