

We Notice

By Ann Gentry

During quarantine school is no longer at school
School is at home, students Zooming behind blue screens
And school is on a path, feet zooming under blue skies and along a trail in the woods

Mornings feel restful
I sleep until the toddler (the new alarm clock) awakens
Breakfast is leisurely
We seek out places without the 3Ps:
People, playgrounds and pets
(My gregarious preschooler just has to meet every dog and its owner)

Then we walk
We walk and talk
We walk and discover
We notice

Day by day, our family of six has had time to notice the usually unnoticed details of spring
turning into summer
The quarantine has changed our rhythms but the rhythms of nature are unchanging for
nature is always changing

Our fourth grader judges the mallards for their lack of social distancing
Our first grader wonders if sandhill cranes can get COVID-19

There's time for family
There's time for their questions
There's time for the lovelinesses of spring

A great blue heron dips below the surface of the water, looking for a noontime meal
We wait and talk
We wait and discover
We wait and notice
We notice