Avonlea School

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Down the valley,
she is whitewashed
and low.

Earnest eaves stick out,
like tongues waving welcomes
and warnings;
hold onto those leather straps!
Keep the books dry!

Windows invite tapping,
allow for sneaking looks,
peekings in at
mouthy desks carved
with dull love letters,
edged with dust.

Pink crumbs from
raspberry tarts shared scatter
among girls
who
w o /a n d e r then
cluster the stoop,
whispering about slate slams.

She sits comfortably,
nestled in
among
fussy fir branches that shake at those who
scamper past,
late again from imagining ghosts.

The brook sticks close to her—
a natural ally.
She too hums knowingly and
also stays down,
her attention remaining on cooling milk
and
hot hands with
easy babbling.

Together, both quietly hold autumn close,
capturing leaves in the doorway or
washing them downstream,
shushing crinkling just in time for
poetry hour.

About the Author: Amber Moore is a Banting Postdoctoral Fellow at Simon Fraser University. Her research interests include adolescent literacies, feminist pedagogies, teacher education, arts-based research, rape culture, and trauma literature, particularly YA sexual assault narratives. Her work can be found in journals such as *Cultural Studies ? Critical Methodologies*, *Feminist Media Studies, Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, and *Qualitative Inquiry*, among others. She also enjoys writing poetry. Email: amberjanellemoore@gmail.com

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Geographical Information: This poem was written on the ancestral, traditional, and unceded territories of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations, where the author lives and works as uninvited guest and settler. These lands are also known as Vancouver, in British Columbia, Canada.

Banner Image: Book cover for *Anne of Avonlea*, 1991. kindredspaces.ca, 117B-AA-SCHOLASTIC.

Article Info

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