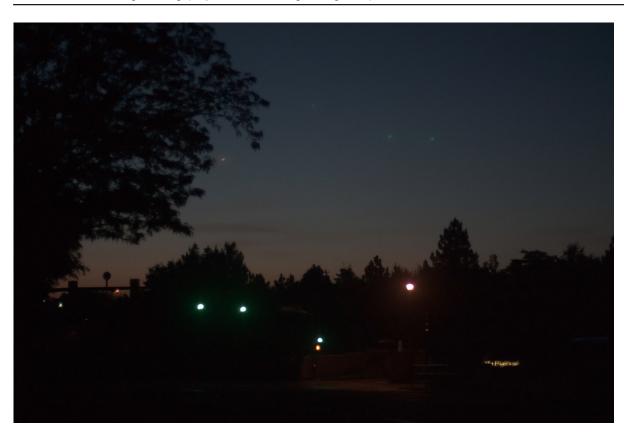
# Yvonne M. Estrada: Poem [1]

March 5, 2014 Honoring Rukeyser [2]

## In the Balance

In dark blue dawn downtown a man asks for change. My seven-year-old son watches me dig in a pocket. He asks "Why did you give him money?" I hold my breath while answers slide off the heap of reasons I could use to explain charity, poverty, loss, do unto others, or karma. His perfect needs-to-know face waits. I check with the sky, 6:00 a.m. and Morning Star holds a cosmic scale. In one pan are gas station, old muscle car, mother and son; the other pan will be filled with the words I say, destitute people my son will encounter, and future actions he will take. My response rushes out with my exhalation, "Because he doesn't have any, and we do." He nods like a monk, absorbs the weight of this. I watch him change; his young heart expands, and his world levels out for a time.



#### **Art Information**

• "Pre-Dawn [3]" © jb; Creative Commons license.



Yvonne M. Estrada is a poet and photographer. She recently published a chapbook, *My Name on Top of Yours*, that contains a crown of sonnets illustrated by original photographs. Her poems have also appeared in *Mischief, Caprice and Other Poetic Strategies, Pulse Magazine, Verse Wisconsin*, and *GuerrillaReads.com #8*.

Source URL: <a href="https://www.talkingwriting.com/yvonne-m-estrada-poem">https://www.talkingwriting.com/yvonne-m-estrada-poem</a>

### Links:

### Yvonne M. Estrada: Poem

Published on Talking Writing (https://www.talkingwriting.com)

- [1] https://www.talkingwriting.com/yvonne-m-estrada-poem
- [2] https://www.talkingwriting.com/talkingwriting-categories/spotlight-honoring-rukeyser
- [3] http://www.flickr.com/photos/ritingonthewall/277101624/

(function(i,s,o,g,r,a,m){i['GoogleAnalyticsObject']=r;i[r]=i[r]||function(){ (i[r].q=i[r].q||[]).push(arguments)},i[r].l=1\*new Date();a=s.createElement(o), m=s.getElementsByTagName(o)[0];a.async=1;a.src=g;m.parentNode.insertBefore(a,m) })(window,document, 'script', 'https://www.googlege 3 of 3 analytics.com/analytics.js','ga'); ga('create', 'UA-18260536-1', 'auto'); ga('send', 'pageview');