

Yolanda & Virginia Get Together

(Yolanda has just retired from teaching & Virginia has been for 10 years.)

They sit on the shady patio
Ralph has sprayed with the hose,
with a slight sweet breeze

Yolanda brings cool tea & homegrown apples,
pear & peaches from her brother's place
—served on he grandmother's amber-glass dishes.

Delicious! What fun!
Between bites, they share family news—
health, jobs, studies—a baby soon!

After cinnamon buns (a throng)
they begin to talk of their students—one & another—
mischievous curious endlessly marvelous—

some 50 years worth
gather like drops of rain
in Earth-Day celebrations through the years—

bringing life to the dry fields
of mind, heart & ground
tears & laughter lightning & thunder

lightning/thunder

peals of laughter, tears



[Virginia's "Get Together" was found on a single page of yellow lined paper, with her own notes, question-marks, & draft suggestions in margin & at top, e.g., "*streamline—prose/ short haiku—*"; in margins, *? — reverse order?—*; & near bottom, *end w/ full-page still-life of apples in bowl.*"

With the exception of shrinking her still-life, the typed transcription closely follows Virginia's draft & directions. The piece as a whole is quite unusual for her in a number of respects, e.g., having editorial notes, description with artistic plan; especially by including herself & Yolanda on exactly the same terms, both part of the picture. As in the still life, however, the "outer image" becomes an evocative gateway to inner experience.

Yolanda Padilla & Virginia Bodner worked together at Los Niños Elementary School for many years—though "50" would have to be either cumulative or an intentionally humorous exaggeration. (Yolanda is pictured elsewhere on the site, in a trio of retired colleagues, with Laura & Virginia.)

A number of her other close colleagues will recognize the qualities of friendship, caring & sharing portrayed by the quite moving still-life style portrait of the time, punctuated by thunder-crack, laughter & tears....]

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