

Tumor Terminology

(Honoring my Editor Father)

Your usual reverence – or ecstasy – with the written word
Has been siphoned away
By a whitewater rush of terminology.

Clinical collisions with this lexicon of labels
Have crushed your sensibilities
and left an unpleasant void in place
of your habitual captivation with the nuances of words.

Tomography
Tachypnea
Topoisomerase Inhibitor
Tympanites

Awash in this thesaurus
Of weighty, immobilizing words,
You waddle through them, one-by-one,
Under scars of syllables scrambling your tongue.

Metastasize
Mediastinoscopy
Mesothelioma
Metronomic Therapy

Your lifetime has embraced
Countless dictionaries
Word packages held together with a common thread,
Words that tickled you with their history, or muscle,
Or played their own unique musical note.

And now, in your hands are bottle labels, charts and tests
Lusterless and annoying
Diagnosing instead of delighting you.