REFLECTIONS: NEUROLOGY AND THE HUMANITIES

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## Fishing in the dark

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Correspondence to Dr. Chu: jgchu@bcm.edu I was fourteen when my grandfather told me he had a tumor In his brain and that we should go fishing again It was in late summer, when the lake was high with trout And he carried me on the back seat of his red bicycle As we wheeled over patches of overgrown moss in the woods He could not remember the trail to the lake But we followed the rectangular signs until dusk And we stood before dark waters to cast our lines I watched as my grandfather's arm dipped up and down Holding on with care but thin as an old bamboo fishing rod His other hand swatting at black flies, making arcs around them We were standing for a long time in nature's quiescence Until the first ripples and waves signaled a presence That would ultimately reveal itself from its surroundings The trout is not the hard one to catch He was silent for a moment and then let out a sigh We stood together in the darkness of night with our lines ready



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