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## Field After Mowing

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## Field After Mowing

For wheat-wind murmurations, evening prayer,  
clover-addled cricket-song, furrows  
new-winnowed, meniscus-blue-moon,  
and somewhere the sound of water, seeping;

For killdeer eyes black-wet beads,  
bugs, tractor-turned shrew-burrow,  
chaffed necks and raw elbows chill,  
and all aloof, one stubble-skimming bat;

For the cloistered life abounding, the habit,  
of hearing. Stalk-snap, step, tread,  
for the wide sound of settling sky.  
For all unpaid owings—wonder, love.

—Justin L. Kennington  
*For Gerard Manley Hopkins*

*This poem won second place  
in the 2008 BYU Studies poetry contest.*