

Readers' Guide

We hope you are once again able to gather together with friends to discuss the ideas generated by our writers and artists. Here are a few ideas to use when thinking about *Muse 21*.

Pandemic

Covid 19 transformed the world into sometimes unrecognizable images and routines; our writers explored how we navigated these unfamiliar waters. Take these words—health, flowers, body, love, connection, acceptance—and analyze how the following poems view them in the light of the pandemic. Do the writers think the changes are permanent? Do the poems hold out hope or uncertainty?

Out-Patient Surgery	Gloria Heffernan
Let's Let Snow Fall	Katharyn Howd Machan
Bleeding Hearts	Eric Machan Howd
How I've Survived This Long, Part 3	Kasha Martin Gauthier
One Pandemic Perspective	Alexandra Tatarian

Witness

What can we do in the face of the unspeakable, the unthinkable? Can words lead the way to healing or justice? Read the following and decide how the speaker in each piece is seeking to involve us in something bigger than the incident being describe?

When the Body Tells the Story	Nancy Avery Dafoe
Ship	E. Laura Golberg
The Last Piece	Joanne Clarkson
Clarion	RC DeWinter
It's All About the Zip Code, Baby!	Simone Seward