Where the Tiny Things Are: Feathered Essays
Nicole Walker

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Microblogs

Because *Scientific American* reports a study that found that people recall Facebook status updates more readily than they recall information read from a book. Because *Scientific American* calls Facebook posts Microblogs. Because microblogs resemble ordinary speech. Because microblogs say what you mean and don’t try to be fancy. Because there is already someone to listen. Because the word “sepulcher” is never used. Because books are sepulchers. Because the word “shimmering,” a word often used in books of poetry, is rarely used in status updates and if it is so used it is easy to unfriend the user. Because the politics are already agreed upon. Because the cadence is the cadence of early humans. Because the early humans communicated contextually. Because the context is a face. Because a face is easy to remember. Because a friend is someone who says things you like. Although the scientists didn’t think humans would remember words written in such haste. Because the scientists are often surprised. Because what is more important than something written in haste, but that it is hastily read? Because teachers might incorporate this into their lessons. Because students are early humans too. Because I will teach a class on this. Because my students would like the class to read a microblog full of context and care and faces. Because the world needs more faces. Because the world needs more, if shorter, words. Because I can remember what you said in your last Facebook post about those with the smallest hearts have the greatest freedom I can’t remember
who posted it and although I can’t remember what famous writer said it first but I can remember each of the words in the exact right order which is more than I can say about anything I wrote except maybe the one day I wrote a Facebook post about being so tired I wanted to put my head in a bucket of sleep and the words were well-liked and I was well-liked and I went into the day tired but finally, for what seemed like the first time, read. And, according to Scientific American, my Facebook friends will indeed remember about sleep and buckets but you, reader, will not remember this essay because it is longer than the accepted word length of a microblog and it is full of long sentences and words I don’t even remember. Because neither you nor I will remember who wrote the article in the Scientific American or who did the research or who invented Facebook but I will remember to friend you when I get home so I can begin to remember you.

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