

## Woodpecker

by Jane Hall

Impatience

A finger roll galloping across Formica  
waiting for the doctor's news

Futility

Spurts of icy rain slapping  
the antique windowpane

Perseverance

The sharp edge of a pencil willing  
A poem to be written

Persuasion

Hand heel hitting the jar's bottom  
To eke out more mustard

Jubilation

A three-octave run for it  
On a homemade marimba

Responsibility

Ratcheting of the old-fashioned  
Wind-up alarm clock

A single tap, or a series

Making repeated rapid  
Contact with  
The world.