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By

Alex

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**WHY I LIKE IT: Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...** *To say that there is beauty in simplicity may, at first glance, appear to create over and under weights. (Once again, just as often, those least qualified to judge become the most vocal critics.) But, Mr. Swartzentruber inexplicably, for me, strikes that perfect balance. In 'LAYING ON THE GROUND IN OCTOBER,' I am oddly enveloped and curiously transported, "It's a good time of year / to roll on the ground." And, why not defer to an expert where and whenever possible? Next, 'LANDMARK,' who can resist the petrification of founding townfolk morphing into points-of-interest. "Becoming a landmark / is easy to achieve / all you have to do / is never leave." Would Galatea have been granted a second chance had she given Medusa a passing glance?*

#### LAYING ON THE GROUND IN OCTOBER

It's a good time of year  
to roll on the ground.  
The leaves make it seem  
Less dirty and more soft.  
Also long pants and a coat  
are very much like a blanket  
that you wear. This isn't  
Something you think about  
until you lay down while  
still wearing them.

#### LANDMARKS

People can be landmarks  
In my small town I'm not  
The Empire State Building  
Or the Eiffel Tower.  
But a statue of a frog or turtle  
attached to a fountain In the park.  
Becoming a landmark  
is easy to achieve  
all you have to do  
is never leave.

**THE POET SPEAKS:** *As a poet I am inspired by everything I experience. Poetry to me is an abstract companion and when my practice is really truly good, I am never alone.*

**AUTHOR BIO:** My name is Alex Swartzentruber. I am a poet from Indiana. I am co-host of podcast It's a Beautiful Day in the Gulch and author of a collection of poetry of the same title. I also play bass in a hardcore punk band called Full Stride.