

Running
Naomi Mercer

Running
 in the dark coolness of morning
Rhythmic pounding of feet
 on the slick pavement
Straining of lungs
 and muscles
 up hills
Leaning back
 resting on the way down

John pretending
 he is an airplane
Mike waiting
 for me to catch up
J.P. venturing
 ahead of us

Running
 with wind of my own making
 bathing my hot face
The effort before dawn
 wanting to be studying
 or sleeping
Sweating
Reeking
Pushing instead

Running
 because at 6 o'clock
 nothing else counts