

## Sentience as An Outing to the Zoo

Nomi Stone

Children throw pebbles  
at the jeweled head  
of the peacock and bark back  
at the seals. Who

can say what happens  
inside each bright life?

Scientists study the brain's  
ancient core in insects:  
no, not dark inside, not simple  
reflex—*it feels like something*

*to be a bee.* Livid with loss,  
a hive rears a new queen. Bees,

groggy, hold each others' legs  
as they fall sleep. Bees! They cling  
to a car all the way down I-95,  
their queen inside.

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