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James Doyle

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## Doyle: Making Biscuits on Corn-Husking Day

### MAKING BISCUITS ON CORN-HUSKING DAY

James Doyle

The old scale runs down its sides  
with odd weights that never add up.

The biscuit tin is losing its light  
to olive mash and anniversary grit.

She is bent over the stove, taking  
pictures with her eyes as the iron strokes

her back, little biscuit puffs curlicued  
down the wobble lines of the tray.

Her hands as important as her eyes.  
Flour through her fingers, corn

scaling the silos, bellies against orange  
rust to move the farm around and back.

The kitchen small, large again, small.  
She can press the walls out or in

with her breathing, cooking. The farm  
collapses around her when it is ready

to sleep. The quilt saved from grease every  
day of harvest, the old hands steady on her.