

**Facing Time**

Minutes tick, hours chime  
on Grandma's porcelain clock  
In her gold-framed mirror  
what do I see?

Mom's pert nose  
pale skin, open smile  
talking hands  
age-spotted

Dad's curling hair  
brown curious eyes  
furrowed get-the-job-done brow  
broad shoulders ready for work

Features repeat in the children  
daughter's face so much my own  
grandson's dark eyes dancing  
waves already on grandbaby's head

Fleeting crooked smile  
caught in photos like a relay baton  
first baby portraits  
fiftieth anniversary gatherings

My face in the mirror reflected by time  
Hours chime, decades pulse

~ Ellen B. Ryan