

An illustration of a young girl with long, straight purple hair. She is wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt, dark blue jeans, and red sneakers with white laces. She is sitting on a large, white, three-dimensional cube that is tilted. Her hands are resting on the top edges of the cube. The background is a soft, blue, misty atmosphere with numerous white raindrops of various sizes falling around her. The overall mood is melancholic and dreamlike.

Shrinking Violet

Violet's story started tall.
Her purple hair impressed us all.
But then her plumage went awry
and she became extremely shy.
She seemed to have no energy
despite becoming gluten-free.
Her confidence was infiltrated.
Her thoughts, she thought, were overrated.
She stopped wanting to have her say;
folded herself in half each day.
Until she was just two wide eyes –
her mouth a shrug, her shrug a sigh.
She slid like droplets down a drain,
her rainbow bow drowned out by rain.

James Brown



illustration by Sarah Wilkins

Shrinking Violet

by James Brown

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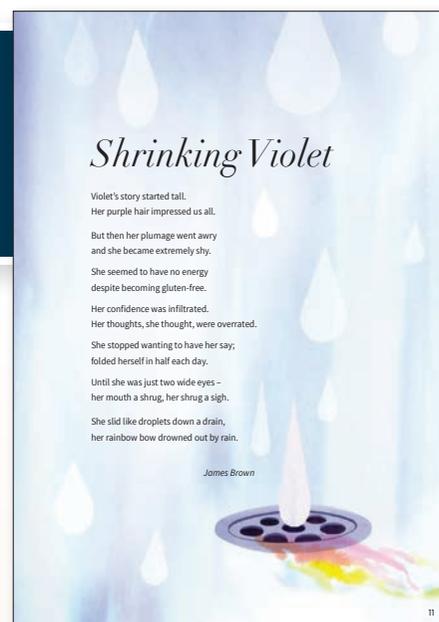
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