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Lost Youth

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Walking on broken sidewalks
Is that a body on the apartment steps?
Did he ever dream?
My dreams are folded in my pocket
For they must wait.
Papa hasn’t been home in...
Mama is always sleeping
Only broken sidewalks as I
stare in the distance.

No school today
The girl next to me is due.
Didn’t do the work anyway!
Almost forgot - School is shutdown
for being unsafe.
Did you ask about that dream?
Still in my pocket.
Can’t think about that now.
Two men arguing at the corner
Better go.
Let’s stick to despair and
leave death behind today.

Home is where...
Mom is still sleeping illegally.
Through the window-
Two men with guns at the corner
Standing on broken sidewalks
The creases in my dreams
must be soft and brown
But they must wait.