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Rounded Down

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Rounded Down by Miriam Bedrin

christie wakes up. christie opens her eyes. christie goes to get dressed. christie looks in the mirror. christie is small—56.5 inches to be exact—only 88.2% of an average girl's height, rounded down to the nearest tenth. Perhaps christie is 88.2% of a person. A part is not a whole. christie learned that in math class. christie hears her Mother call her down.

christie enters school. christie goes to first period. christie sits at a desk. christie ignores the Classmates that ignore her. christie's Teacher hands back papers. The Teacher spells christie's name wrong. christie likes the name christi, 87% of a name, rounded down to the nearest whole number. A part is not a whole.

christi raises her hand. christi opens her mouth to answer a question. christi's voice is airy, like a recorder blown into without closing the tone holes. christi is stared at by her Classmates. christi realizes no one had asked a question. christi stops talking 29.5% faster than she usually does, rounded down to the nearest half. A part is not a whole.

christi goes to lunch. christi sits alone. christi hears a Voice. christi ignores it. christi lets it blend in with her life's endless narration. christi eats 88.2% of her lunch, for 88.2% of a person, rounded down to the nearest tenth, does not need a full portion. A part is not a whole.

Painting: *Shout* by Adriana Lindenfeld