

# Seaside Excursion

by Rosalyn Chen

Dad packs the Toyota Sienna  
With green plastic lawn chairs  
And a cooler of drinks.

I sit in the car,  
My family and I,  
Waiting for the hour long drive to end.  
I bicker intermittently with my sister.

Once we arrive,  
I bring my goggles,  
Tie my hair up,  
Jump into the waves  
In my one piece red swimsuit.

My toes trail in water,  
Dipping in the foam.  
I dig a hole in the sand,  
Watch as water pools at the bottom.

The waves splash my face  
Peppering salty dewdrops,  
I laugh, ceaseless joy.

Grabbing a toy bucket,  
I fill the plastic pail with water.  
I sneak behind my sister  
And surprise her.

Shells are half buried treasure,  
Swept by the water.  
Holding my breath  
Diving under the unpredictable waves  
I search,  
And pick them up.  
If I'm lucky  
I'll find intact mussel shells,  
Illuminated pearl butterflies.

Time flies,  
When we have to leave  
Tenacious sands  
Cling to my feet.

I bring a bucket of sea water,  
Splash my feet  
Before I get into the car.

Then we'll sadly leave,  
But traces of beach will remain.

Sand sticking to the soles of my shoes,  
Pungent ocean scent in the car,  
Taste of seawater in my mouth.

Radiant joy in my heart.