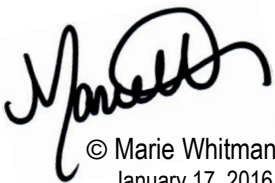


## POEM SIXTEEN

Composed at the beach. Today. Just before dusk.

Sipping slurpees  
Ice cream drips  
Boy, the sun feels...  
Girl, how can you walk in those heels...  
I digress on the beach  
Wish I could reach my arms  
As high as that palm tree  
Can scrape the sky  
Watching passers-by  
Stroll  
Watching blue bikes  
Roll  
Napping toddlers in strollers  
Missing it all  
As the wind pulls at the  
Diving gulls  
Swooping in for supper  
Surely the sun  
Starts to slip  
Too soon  
To make room for the moon  
Sandy damp towels get rolled  
Dusty blankets get folded  
Start saying  
Goodbye to this day  
Shovels and pails put away  
A family makes its far  
Trek back to the car  
The splashes end  
Boardwalk clears of frolicking friends  
Dusk descends  
She turns  
Looks back at shadows on the sand  
Smiling  
Her sandcastle still stands



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Serving you  
Poems to go  
Words that feed  
Heart and soul