
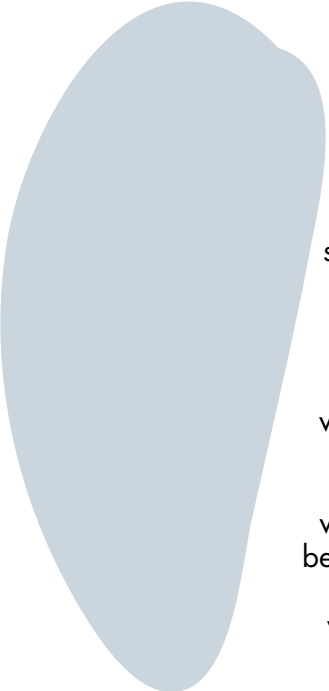




PARAMECIUM

S.P. Flannery



Cilia pass victuals along
the cell wall, victims
caught adrift in a sea
landlocked, encased
in glass, where neighbors
struggle for the few particles
that were siphoned
from the same pond by
children eager to preview
what humans cannot see
without the aid of mechanics
that extend perception
beyond genetics, to witness
what moves in a water-drop,
beneath intense magnification
the creatures persist
without their own machines,
the microscopes that are
passed between students,
who in puerile excitement
drop the slide, on clay tile
glass breaks, but a few
small water pools remain.