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# Three Poems

*by Jim Bennett*

## The Room

underneath the blue green paper  
pictures of flowers  
is the ghost of wood-chip  
and in places round the fireplace  
in the wrong light  
you can see  
the papered over not-to-my-taste  
dark blue paint  
that someone thought  
could be a feature

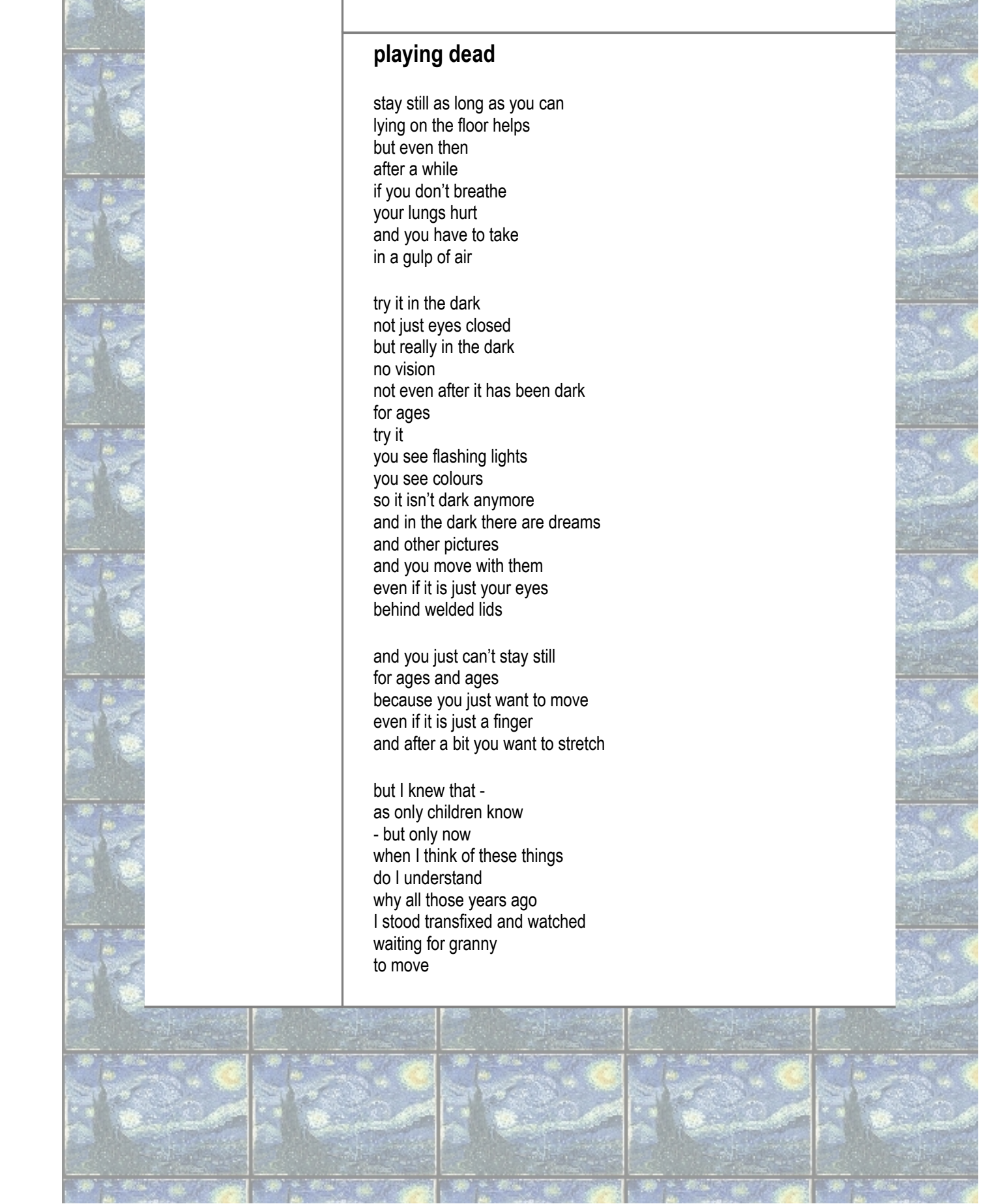
there are two settees  
a TV, a video, a SKY digital box;  
the channel chasing handsets  
wait on a side table next to where I sit

There are a stack of video tapes  
played or waiting to be played  
books, magazines,  
today's newspapers  
and in one corner  
the computer  
that links me to a billion names  
But even so  
in spite of all this  
the room is empty

## the stone

stones have slow thoughts  
a static that can take an age  
between each spark  
as they  
slowly wear to sand

a boy picks up  
a white stone  
that reflects the sun  
and he lets his finger follow  
a dark line strata  
inlaid a million years before  
he takes it home  
where it sits sixty years  
as a memento



of a sunny day

the stone does not notice

### **playing dead**

stay still as long as you can  
lying on the floor helps  
but even then  
after a while  
if you don't breathe  
your lungs hurt  
and you have to take  
in a gulp of air

try it in the dark  
not just eyes closed  
but really in the dark  
no vision  
not even after it has been dark  
for ages  
try it  
you see flashing lights  
you see colours  
so it isn't dark anymore  
and in the dark there are dreams  
and other pictures  
and you move with them  
even if it is just your eyes  
behind welded lids

and you just can't stay still  
for ages and ages  
because you just want to move  
even if it is just a finger  
and after a bit you want to stretch

but I knew that -  
as only children know  
- but only now  
when I think of these things  
do I understand  
why all those years ago  
I stood transfixed and watched  
waiting for granny  
to move

Liverpool-resident **Jim Bennett** has written 63 books, including ones for children, nine chapbooks, and books on transportation and examinations. He has won several awards, including 3DADAFest awards. He is also managing editor of [www.poetrykit.org](http://www.poetrykit.org). He taught creative writing at the University of Liverpool and now tours throughout the year giving readings and performances of his work.

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