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Statue of Pioneer Woman

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PEOPLE

Celebration of Slice of Life

Statue of Pioneer Woman

By Aaron A. Baker



Woman in bronze
in step with small son
whose hand she holds
with love and strength——
as they walk with steady eyes
to muffled Indian drums
across the rolling hills. . .
and a silver hawk
glides earthward——
banking against white clouds.

The little boy
with scuffed boots
kicks over bleached
coyote skull
in the uncharted grass. . .
and feels his mother's
tightening grip.

The pioneer woman in bonnet
with a loaded kerchief on
her other arm,
carries among other things,
seeds——including her
beloved portulaca. . .
And the boy has little
keepsakes in his pockets
including a recently found
broken arrowhead. . .
Both dreaming of a new home
and soft furrows.

Illustration by Canuky Alwert