On Being the Only Veteran in English Comp II
—Jennifer Childress

Put mind to hand
and hand to pen
try to go
where others have been

Walk the talk
talk the walk
lines on paper
blackboard chalk

Little lessons
learned in school
basic training
(I ain’t no fool)

Always sitting
back row bound
hands fly up
salute the sound

If I was back there
on the flightline waiting
I could still my heart
from palpitating
But not now.

Oh! Words
please be quick and with a snap
curl ’round on the notebook
and out of your nap

And the blank writing tablet looks up at me and grins:
"Hurry up and wait" :)

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