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Etymologies

By Wendy Gutierrez

Why should I bother—
the words, lying on
a sheet of still white
like tree branches?
Severed limbs
thrown across the nothing
in a trail, their twists and curves
are a testament of their existence.

I am the woodpecker
feasting on their insides
until I have made
my territory in
the hollow of their trunks,
rearranging every bit
for my nest.
New life sprouts
from replanted remains.