

Learning New Words

Hal Sirowitz

My Parkinson's medicine makes
 my arms shake. The medical
 term is dyskinesia. That's
 one of the benefits of the disease –
 you learn new words. You
 also learn new meanings for
 old words. When I say my
 windows are wide open,
 I'm not referring to the computer
 or those in a house. It means
 my medication is working.
 A half closed window means
 the medicine is wearing down.
 A closed window means everything
 I do will now become a struggle.
 I just pray the window won't get stuck.

The Speed of Mice

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When the Parkinson's medication
 wears down, I turn into Cinderella.
 My means of transportation
 slows down to the speed of
 a pumpkin pulled by mice.
 My shoes still fit my feet.
 But I take them off. They
 make too much noise as
 I drag them across the floor.