“An Autobiography in Five Chapters”

1 I walk down the street.

 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
 I fall in.
 I am lost. I am helpless.
5 It isn't my fault.
 It takes forever to find a way out.

 I walk down the same street.
 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
 I pretend I don't see it.
10 I fall in again.
 I can't believe I am in the same place.
 But, it isn't my fault.
 It still takes me a long time to get out.

 I walk down the same street.
15 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
 I see it is there.
 I still fall in. It's a habit.
 My eyes are open.
 I know where I am.
20 It is my fault. I get out immediately.

 I walk down the same street.
 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
 I walk around it.

 I walk down another street.

--Portia Nelson