“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