

# CURE FOR A SUMMER COLD

by Wanda VanHoy Smith

I sit on warm beach sand  
take in deep breaths of fresh sea air  
barking like a sea lion,  
I try to give my July cold to sea gulls.  
I hope they will fly away withon wings of health.  
I have never heard a gull sneeze.  
I don't want to give my cold to you.  
If I had this cough while lying in  
a hospital bed they would be giving  
me oxygen through a tube from a tank.  
So logically oxygen from this huge ocean  
Lung should cure me.  
In old Victorian novels people always  
go to the sea shore for a cure.  
But that was before the ozone layer grew thin.  
I look at the spreckled freckles on my arms  
realize I failed to cover them with sun screen.  
My treatment for a summer cold may not be the answer  
A thoughtless July ray may give me skin cancer?

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