

A Promise in my Pocket

You left a Post-It on my desk
Scribbled with blue ink
It said "I appreciate you"
Signed with your initials and a star

I slipped it into the pocket
Of my fading paint-splattered jeans
Between the pennies and paperclips
So I would pause and think of you

I held it between my fingertips
As I lent him fare for the train
He folded the five into his pocket
"I won't forget your help."

I fiddled with the softened paper
While I sent her the science notes
She missed class but still said
"I wish you all the best!"

Note in hand I changed the world
With your kindness in my pocket
Here's promise I can keep:
I'll write you back tomorrow

Artist Statement:

This poem is inspired by the idea that one act of kindness goes a long way, and can change the world. When people pay kindness forward, each action has a much larger positive impact than the initial event. In these uncertain times, when everyone is getting back on their feet after the pandemic, it is just as important as ever to give help to those who need it. Sometimes all it takes to change someone's world is a few words or a simple gesture.