

# Beach pictures, 1954

by [Stella Nesanovich](#) in the [June 1, 2010](#) issue

The stamp on the backs reads July 12th,  
Photos faded to green  
Ripening to sepia edges.  
Only reds are vivid. The sea grays  
To a dark line marking the sky.

Aunt Thelma and Uncle Dimps stand on dunes  
Scattered with sea oats, her towel limp  
Against a thigh, the flounce of her suit.

Joy studies the sand. I etch something  
In the air, my hair a tousled wedge.  
Mother tucks legs for the pose.

In another, my aunt grasps my sister's arm—  
Laurene, the first to die. Two of us  
Lock arms, stoop when waves break.

She stands alone, already separating herself.