

**NOTE:** All page numbers refer to Gregory Boyle's *The Whole Language: The Power of Extravagant Tenderness*. I've indicated where Boyle is quoting someone else and taken minor liberties with punctuation. Where no numeral precedes a line, the page number last cited carries forward.

—Phyllis Cole-Dai, cento composer, 2022

57     **Gentle Road Home**  
       *A Cento*

- xii*     Lean into the grief.  
167     Look death in the eye.  
       Say yes to the necessary  
       culmination of life.
- 20     Abandon performance.  
59     You're the boss of you.  
110    Deepen the sense of your own truth.  
78     Live this truth against all odds.
- 103    Choose to stay on good terms with your life.  
51     Choose love as the architecture of your heart.  
102    Catch yourself not wanting to get  
       separated from your kindness.
- xv*     Be at home with yourself,  
       then put the welcome mat out  
       so that others find a home in you.
- 88     Be poised to enter into a relationship  
       with anyone  
       anywhere.
- 32     Look to the excluded and say:  
       We will not live without you.  
222    We all have the same last name.
- xii*    Enable folks to high purpose.  
55     Be on the lookout for the hidden  
       wholeness in everyone.
- 38     See who other people are  
       and quit staring at who they aren't.
- 41     It will always be less exhausting  
       to love than to find fault.

*[stanza break]*

111 *[David Moore:]* We are all medics in a war zone.  
*xi* We want a different world.  
203 It's not about getting to solutions  
as much as getting to each other.  
201 Every day, we inch closer.

223 So, what do we do now?  
156 Repurpose our own living  
in the wake of death.

133 *[Sergio:]* Continue to unlock  
eternity for each other.  
63 Create the place  
where healing can happen,  
134 Here and Now.

179 Choose joy  
and it becomes

57 the gentle road home.