

When I Awoke

Have I gone blind?—
My bedside lamp would not turn on
The face of my electric clock was black.
The hall light was off.

The chandelier was not visible.
My computer gave no sign of life.
My outdoor light was not shining.
The TV was mute.

The kitchen stove panel was dark.
Lights above the burners were unresponsive.
The microwave showed neither light nor time.
The coffee maker refused my advances.

The toaster would not toast
Daring me to touch it.
The refrigerator sat silent and smug.

Pause. Think. Imagine.

What if PG&E had never strung a line?
What if Ben Franklin had not discovered electricity?
How did cavemen survive?

Still—
My iPhone allowed me call for help.
My watch gave the time.

And like a phoenix, hope rose.
Fear not.
Light is on its way.
I'm saved! Saved!
Touchdown! Jackpot!