

A Challenge

By Brod Bagert

It's the challenge we face as we shelter in place,
and we do very well on the whole,
'cause our mom's very strong, and she works hard and long,
but it's taking a terrible toll.

For it's day after day, with her roots turning gray,
she's the mother, the teacher, the cook,
til her mood starts to slide, something snaps deep inside,
and her eyes get that far away look.

"I'll use sheets to climb down from the window," she says.
"Or I'll tunnel out deep underground.
I might even explore a few steps out the door
for a moment then turn back around."

But she gets it all done, sometimes making it fun,
always caring for me and my brother.
But I'm starting to see, and I think you'll agree,
that we kids should take care of our mother.

That's the challenge, it's true, for both me and for you—
time to **START** taking **CARE** of your **MOTHER**.

