

If I Could

by Alison Yoder

If I could
Just stay
Just stay longer;
Remain.
Like the Giant Oak
In this place,
The Loblolly

If I could
Just see
Just see better;
Observe.
The swamp that once was
In this place,
The Loblolly

If I could
Just meet
Just meet Miss Porter;
Connect.
For one long day
In this place,
The Loblolly

If I could

Written on 6/5/2026 in response to a poetry hike at the Loblolly with Indiana Poet Laureate,
Shari Wagner and naturalist field-guide, Curt.