

The Next Goodbye

Impulsively, she hugged him goodbye

Even though she knew she shouldn't.

And he kissed her cheek-

He couldn't help it.

I'll see you.

Okay.

But they didn't.

They couldn't.

She worked.

He tried.

Summer came...

And went.

And, finally, school started again.

They saw each other...

In passing.

And they shared a virtual hug

Hidden behind a mask

And socially distanced

Because she would always be

His teacher!

Everything good and right

In something not quite real.

And they both would fear

The next goodbye.