



An Autobiography in five short chapters

By Portia Nelson

Chapter 1

I walk down the street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I fall in
I am lost...I am helpless

Chapter 2

I walk down the same street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I pretend I don't see it
I fall in again
I can't believe I'm in the same place
But it isn't my fault
It still takes a long time to get out

Chapter 3

I walk down the same street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I see it is there
I still fall in....it's a habit
My eyes are open
I know where I am
It is my fault
I get out immediately

Chapter 4

I walk down the same street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I walk round it

Chapter 5

I walk down another street

Question for discussion: Explain what you think this poem is about