

# Floridian Facts

Denise Bookwalter 2021

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*Mosquitos make honey.*  
*A cucumber is a fruit.*  
Yes, it is true and sometimes  
cartoons are more accurate  
than the news.

*A pigeon is a mammal*  
*because they make milk.*  
She insisted the bird as  
mammal as fact, adding  
more to the stack  
of mosquitos make honey.  
Standing barefoot in the  
kitchen I question my  
role in this innocent  
misunderstanding  
she carried home.  
*A cucumber is a fruit.*  
I listen and play along.  
because it is easier.  
Explain to me how  
mosquitos make honey,  
in Florida where citrus  
die on the trees.  
We are left with questions  
about how we are more  
than animal mammals  
distinguishing fact from  
fiction, living in the land  
of perpetual  
misunderstanding.

*A lie or blatant disregard*  
for science.  
Misunderstandings in the  
land of milk and honey,  
pigeons and mosquitos.  
Hiding behind power  
mistrusting facts  
making up fictions  
to build the fruits of  
one's own mammalian  
kingdom, answering  
the wrong questions.

Some get facts from a fox  
and others, like the girl I know,  
get facts from cartoons.  
*Mosquitos make honey.*  
I double check my sources.  
Algorithms are confused  
about the milk and honey  
and  
question my sanity.