

Industrial Revelation

by Jodi Barnes

I tell my students about a time
when seniority was told
by the number of fingers
on a worker's hands

No weekends or overtime,
children — bare toes dangling —
twelve hours on the line

I look for signs of empathy
as we watch *Norma Rae*
UNION placard above her head

Instead someone mimics
Sally Fields' Oscar line:
You like me; You really like me!

Another asks if she's had
more than one facelift,
a third, metallic nails mid-text,
announces she might be dead.

