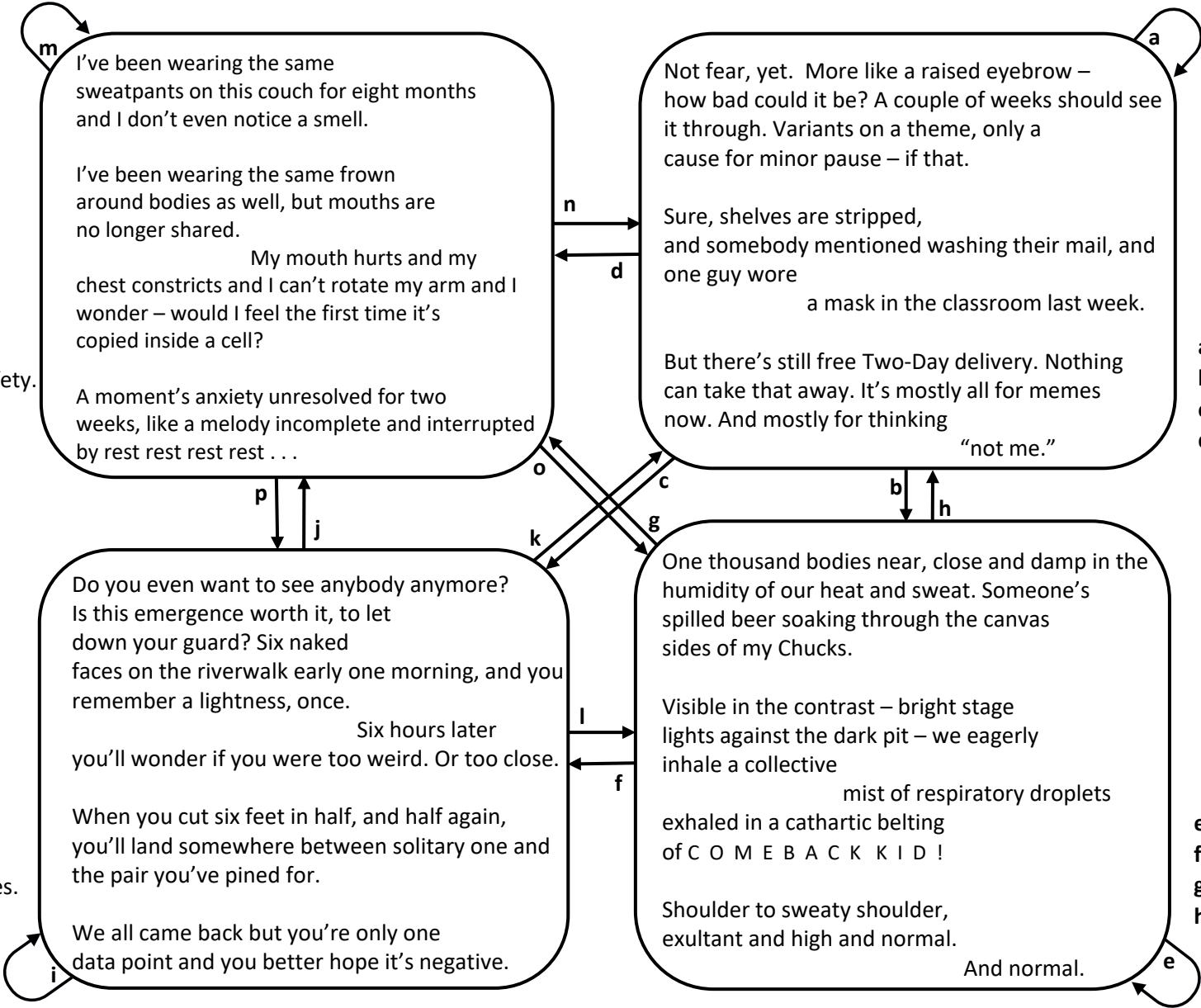


What the Body Does Next

m: The needle skips and skips and . . .
n: I can't believe what used to pass for safety.
o: And I dream of the song's next note.
p: A second shot at a resolving chord.

i: You've had your fill for now.
j: Thin ice cracking underfoot.
k: Like tea leaves, too many articles.
l: This is your enthusiastic yes.



a: The center is holding for now.
b: Luck, competence, whatever – it's a blip.
c: The variance is hard to measure.
d: A slow wave of incomprehensible response.

e: Let's do this again tomorrow!
f: After the dive, we come up for air.
g: Four days later, a fever.
h: We heard someone there had symptoms.

Author's Note: *What the Body Does Next* is a digraph poem, in which the circled sections may be read in any order. The reader is encouraged to start by reading any one of the four circled sections, and then to proceed to a next section based on whichever nearby letter suits them - just follow the corresponding arrow. Assuming a reader can start at any section and makes choices which result in reading each section precisely once, *What the Body Does Next* contains 24 distinct poems. Because the underlying structure is the complete digraph on four vertices (with loops), it is also possible to cycle through the poem infinitely. For more information on digraph poetry, see [this Bridges paper](#).