

## A Year

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*Jon Cotner*

### *First Spring Day*

Just watched two  
squirrels nibble  
half a cocoa bar.  
One got nervous  
and buried the rest  
in the flowerbox.

### *First Summer Day*

Skimming sand -  
continent's edge -  
always a foot ahead  
of me - I'll never  
catch it - golden sun  
skating foam.

### *First Autumn Day*

Outside the Strand  
a girl says loudly  
into her phone "I'm  
here killing time."  
I think "No, time  
is killing us."

### *First Winter Day*

Those who apply  
the lessons they've  
learned (in our lives  
we seem to learn

a few basic lessons) –  
these mortals are wise.

*Jon Cotner is co-author of Ten Walks/Two Talks. His interactive walks have been celebrated by the New York Times, the New Yorker, and the Wall Street Journal. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, and teaches at the Pratt Institute.*