

Science is a Verb

Science, as some would break it down,
Is defining a simple noun.
A person, a Nobel prize winning white coat or
A pioneering PI on the front.
A place where science happened, the lab where it grew,
A recent finding, that until recently, no one knew.
A thing, a bone, a cell or flower.
An innovative metal, for a more stable tower.

Science is not simply a systematic finding,
but rather, an experimental failing.

Science is
The SYBR green twinkle through a hemocytometer toil,
Fading at random from under the immersion oil.
Knowing you have seen in the dark of night,
the same random dance
in the macro-sky.
And feeling your place on this earth is simply
to enjoy such adventitious delights.

Science is working.
Numeric puzzles, algorithms and proofs.
Coding accuracy....and then,
a single keystroke spoof.
500 word goals,
For a paper, on a subject few people know.

Science is...failure and trying again.
Inquisitive passion with a dash of persistence in tow.
A question given a purpose with experimental flow.
An affection for finding the answer-
or even just the next step to your "why."
Science is bad math, expired reagents, a brutal peer review. Wrong
units, broken glassware, and autoclave frights.
Science is doing plaque assays in triplicates, and long numerating nights.
Science is remembering the twinkling SYBR green, and the "why" behind your cry.

So, if ever the sun rises to meet your eyes,
And not a single question within them lies-
Then, for you, "Science is a noun."

Its grandeur has been minimized.
Nothing more in your heart is left to be found.

Simply put,
In school or work-
In church or town-
Science is not a noun-
Science is an action word,
Science is a verb.

- 2nd place, Ashley Humphrey, University of Tennessee