

*On Sitting Down to Write*

What discoveries shall I make  
 When I, eager, undertake  
 To add word to word on paper  
 In a mood to cut a caper?

Will the beauty hid in nature  
 Come to sound and then to sight?  
 Will the joy beneath life's surface  
 Well up through my soul to light?

If what comes to birth is fun,  
 Nothing else, no deep insight,  
 Then I'll make to God and you  
 This small offering of delight.

*Ancestral Home*

I saw the "1455  
 AD" on arch above the door  
 Where John the little boy skipped through,  
 John whom I know as ancestor.

The pear tree's gone on which he swung  
 To reach the ground when soft moon hung  
 Just up the sky above the road  
 No higher than a small hayload.

I went to see the house and tree  
 And now must take that tree on trust;  
 But house, as we can all agree,  
 Is there and not reduced to dust.

But John is gone, long gone, you see;  
 And only memory and trust  
 Can make me see, as see I must,  
 That little boy out in that tree.

Out and away from house and tree,  
 Skipping along that road to me.

*On Being a Poem*<sup>\*</sup>

I saw her with my eyes

Because she was there and I had eyes.

Without eyes she saw me because she was

A vision.

I heard her with my ears

Because she spoke to me and I had ears.

Without ears she heard me because she was

A poem.

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 Helen Keller's speaking with me--the middle  
 fingers of her right hand on my upper lip,  
 the outer fingers on my lower lip--till I  
 lost awareness of her being  
 both blind and deaf.



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82