

TO ANDY

He entered English five different, I.B.M.<sup>5</sup>  
And sat next to the window, alphabetized.  
Not known except for face, thoughtful  
Amused at times, but more often window-struck.  
The course vanished - Shakespeare, Houseman, Frost -  
A tree with a grackle, black and raucous,  
An ordinary bird, an ordinary tree - nothing  
To make one wonder - clock time stop -  
Stop voice of old 78 teacher recording ●  
Over and over, memento mori memento mori -  
While he full of intimations of mortality wrote:  
And the jaws that used to bite  
Are sterile where we lay.

Kinsman of a stiller town, ave atque vale.  
The world now cosmos, now moon-struck  
Lunges towards landings hard or soft.  
Men walk <sup>the air</sup> ~~the air~~, but no one walks the water,  
Or brings back burning tablets proclaiming  
Thou shalt love!

Your absence is noted, when a boy wonder-struck  
Sees beyond trees and grackles to where the heart orbits