

# Sensitivity to initial conditions

by [Marci Rae Johnson](#) in the [September 21, 2010](#) issue

Put the words close enough.  
Closer than that, even closer

so that one breath  
will make the other turn  
and the other turn  
and say

and the wind break *this* leaf  
from its stem, not the other

and make a cup for the dew  
in the shade where the sun  
won't dry it

where the bird stops to drink  
as your son waits, pointing  
"birdie, birdie" and

you snap the picture, the one  
where his smile is like  
the first time anyone ever smiled

and its place in the frame on your desk  
makes you wonder why  
you don't write poems  
about this.