

A window

by [D. S. Martin](#) in the [January 16, 2019](#) issue

A window is not as open as it seems  
keeping out cold  
    the pine needles' freshness  
    the cardinal's call

A starling dives straight for it  
veering off  
    last second  
when its gold surface gleams

Not as open as it seems   like the job posting  
soon filled by the boss's daughter  
the chimney whose nest is only discovered  
when smoke fills the room

A window is not as open as it seems  
    & in the kitchen   steams  
    when we're boiling water  
becoming clouded

Not as open or   perhaps   as clear  
somewhat like the accidental click of a door  
behind you   a minnow trap with no way out  
a blind eye   a deaf ear

You can see the traffic on the river's far shore  
but the bridge is a long way down  
The hungry turtle prods your finger  
through aquarium glass

A window is not as open as it seems  
as darkness advances   the outer world  
is lost to its mirror   & we're strangely

on display to passersby

The old man listens to the pastor's words

He smiles & nods smiles & nods