

Reverie in Open Air

By Rita Dove

I acknowledge my status as a stranger:
Inappropriate clothes, odd habits
Out of sync with wasp and wren.
I admit I don't know how
To sit still or move without purpose.
I prefer books to moonlight, statuary to trees.

But this lawn has been leveled for looking,
So I kick off my sandals and walk its cool green.
Who claims we're mere muscle and fluids?
My feet are the primitives here.
As for the rest—ah, the air now
Is a tonic of absence, bearing nothing
But news of a breeze.

Rita Dove, "Reverie in Open Air" from *American Smooth*. Copyright © 2004 by Rita Dove. Reprinted by permission of W. W. Norton & Company, Inc..

Source: Poetry (Poetry Foundation, 2003)