

# Sharks' Teeth

By Kay Ryan

Everything contains some  
silence. Noise gets  
its zest from the  
small shark's-tooth  
shaped fragments  
of rest angled  
in it. An hour  
of city holds maybe  
a minute of these  
remnants of a time  
when silence reigned,  
compact and dangerous  
as a shark. Sometimes  
a bit of a tail  
or fin can still  
be sensed in parks.

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Source: Poetry



Born in California, Kay Ryan is the author of several books of poetry. Her unique brand of tightly compressed brilliance has earned her the status of one of the great living American poets, and led to her appointment as U.S. Poet Laureate in 2008. Maintaining a career outside the mainstream poetry circuit, Ryan teaches remedial English in California's Marin County, where she has lived for the last 30 years. Ryan has said that her poems do not start with imagery or sound, but rather develop "the way an oyster does, with an aggravation."

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