

Then and Now

By Tom Clark

Then it was always
for now, later
for later.
And then years of now
passed, and it grew later
and later. Trapped
in the shrinking
chocolate box
the confused sardine
was unhappy. It
leapt, and banged its head
again. And afterward
they said shall we
repeat the experiment.
And it said
later for that.

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Tom Clark was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1941. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and won a Fulbright fellowship to earn his master's degree at Cambridge University. He has worked as a poetry editor, writer and instructor in both America and England. Clark is also a respected writer in other genres of literature including biography, literary criticism and essays, novels and drama.