

# 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.

Source: *Poetry* (December 2014)