# Audio file

[36-Track-36 (1).mp3](https://neagov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/travisd_arts_gov/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/36-Track-36%20%281%29.mp3)

Dana Gioia

Here again is Kay Ryan.

Kay Ryan

“I heard a Fly buzz – when I died –“ by Emily Dickinson.

I heard a Fly buzz – when I died –

The Stillness in the Room

Was like the Stillness in the Air –

Between the Heaves of Storm –

The Eyes beside – had wrung them dry –

And Breaths were gathering Power

For that last Onset – when the King

Be witnessed – in the Power –

I willed my Keepsakes – Signed away

What portion of me I could make

Assignable – and then it was

There interposed a Fly –

With Blue – uncertain – stumbling Buzz –

Between the light – and me –

And then the Windows failed – and then

I could not see to see –

TRANSCRIPT NOTE: This version of “I heard a Fly buzz – when I died” is different than what is on Poetry Out Loud’s website. If reciting this poem for Poetry Out Loud, please refer to: <https://www.poetryoutloud.org/poem/i-heard-a-fly-buzz-when-i-died-591/>