

### The Redundancies

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These poems were read at Borders in downtown Portland

on January 9, 2006. One poem was read for each person in

the audience. Many of the poems had been written for spe-

cific audience members; the rest were assigned on the spot.

#### Thank you

for Dan Raphael

You invited me to read in your reading series and in your reading series I thanked you for inviting me to read in your reading series.

#### The full title of these poems

for Lindsay Hill

The redundancies that proved themselves redundant proved themselves redundantly proved.

# It is a truth universally acknowledged that anything universally acknowledged is truth.

for Brian McLaughlin

#### for Gillian Zacharias

This stack of apples

is stacked so that
if any stacked apple is snacked upon
the stack of stacked apples
will collapse.

#### Our sources of wisdom #1

for Maryrose Larkin

My dead grandmother's long dead long white grandmother hair.

#### for Gale Czerski

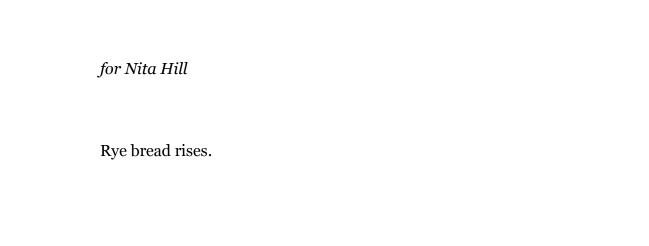
cats that are black

The black cat category contains

and cats that might as well be black

and things that are black that might as well be cats

and things that might as well be black and might as well be cats.



#### for Olivia

The wind blows down and down blows the wind and blows you down.

#### for Kim Adams McCool

The tiniest urge urges tiny-ness.

#### for Marc McCool

The Viking king is king of the Vikings.

The Viking king is the king who is a Viking.

The Viking king is the Viking who is a king.

If a king is a Viking or a Viking is a king

then that Viking or that king is king of the Vikings.

#### for Jason Mashak

A box, by its nature, has the nature of a box and boxes nature.

#### for Orrin

If flying terrifies you, don't fly.

If you terrify flyers, don't fly.



#### for James

See the brave sailor sail the seas.

See the brave sailor brave the seas.

See the brave sailor brave the sailors.

#### Our historical antecedents #3

for Charlotte Wells

Please pass the milk please.

Please pass the milk please.

Please pass the milk please.

for Roger

As sure as shit is shit, shit is shit.

#### for Jeanette

When our leaders fail us, it is a failure in leadership.

When our words fail us,

it is also a failure in leadership.

#### for Philip Iosca

Is a naked man more naked than a nearly naked man?

#### for Alex Jones

A great escape is only as great as the greatest thing escaped.

#### for Kate Sanderson

Which is the most problematic:

art that is problematic,

art that is not problematic,

the idea that some art is not problematic,

or the idea that some problematic things aren't art?

for Karen Jaffe

He is the poster boy

for boys who pose on posters.

## This heightened sense of sense

for Eduardo

is the sense of heightened heightenedness.

#### for Byron

The tongue.

The tongue.

Lapsang suchoung.

#### for Ross Beach

The "sincere synth" is essentially myth to the musicsmith.

#### for Billis Helbig

The knack for grasping a new knack is the knack for grasping a new grasp.

The need for a new knack

is the grasping for any new nearby knack, and any new nearby knack is grasped with some new grasp.

The new grasp is needed to grasp the new knack.

Grasp enough new knacks with new grasps and you grasp the need and the knack for grasping new grasps when you need new knacks.

#### for Jeff

We were weary.

We wept.

We were weary still.



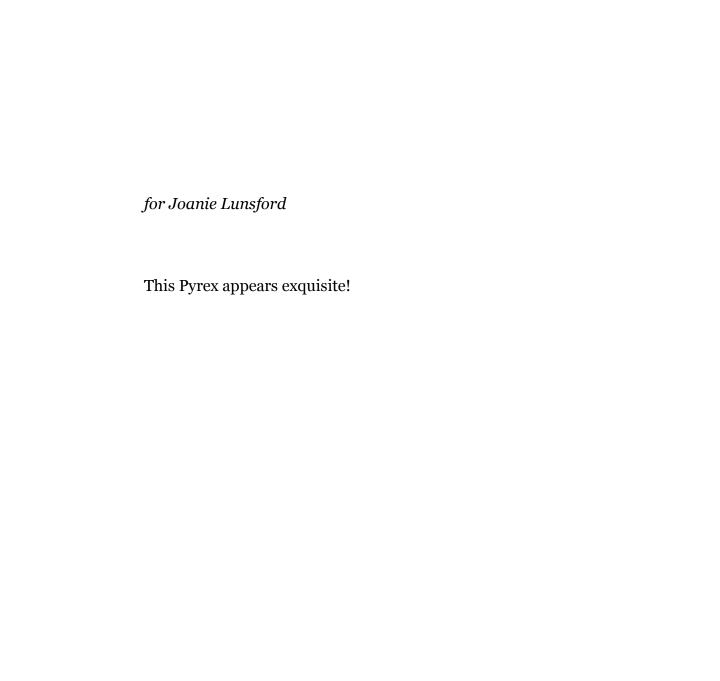
for Yo

The Oreo cookie is a kind of cookie and the Oreo cookie is a kind of Oreo

#### Our historical antecedents #1

for Doug Kaiser

Western Wind, when wilt thou blow the small rain down can rain



#### for Gabriel Liston

Duty calls, duly calling birds to bird calls,

calling bird to bird

called duly

dually

to duty.

#### for Kiri Hargie

The one true ring binds true ones to true ones in one true ring.

#### for mARK oWEns

and ask yourself
what happens
when you ask yourself
to take a deep breath.

Take a deep breath

#### An eodermdrome

for Finn McCool

Cool Finn McCool is that cool McCool.

That Finn is cool.

# para Maria José Gonzalez Arredondo

adonde vamos

y lo que vamos a ver.

Vamos a ver

#### Our sources of wisdom #2

for Karen Braucher

These very rocks from the very rocky top of the very top of the mountain top.

## for Nathaniel

I have drawn a tie

пе

near the man

whose drawing

of a tie

nearly

tied

my drawing

of a tie in the tie-

drawing

showdown.

## **Apologia**

for margareta waterman

I have written these poems as poems written to be like poems written by me.

# **Obscenely violent poem**

for Kim

Kitty kitty

bang bang.

## for David

The cold snap's cold snap coldly snapped our happy snap in half.

#### Our historical antecedents #2

for Ashley Edwards

Star-light, what is star-light, star-light is a little light that is not always mentioned with the sun, it is mentioned with the moon and the sun, it is mixed up with the rest of the time.

for Sam

Her lively private life and her privately lively privates.

## for Shanti

A cup of coffee is a cup of coffee by the quantity of the one coffee cup,

but one cup of coffeeis one cup of coffeeby the quantity of the one cup of coffee.

#### for Endi Hartigan

but unhappy families are unhappy unlike other unhappy families or are families unlike other unhappy families.

Happy families are happy like all other happy families

and families like all other happy families,

# We've never met before today unless sometime before today we met.

for everyone else I don't know

## for Elijah

All these words here are all wrong.

All wrong words are here, among these words.

#### Final poem

for Bryan Markovitz

Love is the habit of loving and nothing more

than the habit of loving nothing more than the habit of loving,

and habit is the loving of habit

and nothing more than the habit of loving habit and nothing more,

and nothing is nothing but the habit of nothing and nothing more than the habit of loving nothing more than nothing, but more is the loving of more than nothing the loving of more more than nothing and the habit of loving more than nothing

and the habit of loving more than habit and the habit of loving more than loving and the habit of the habit of loving more than the loving of

the loving of habit
or the loving of the habit of loving or the loving of the loving

of loving:
more is more and more is more
and more is more

and more is more and more is more and more is nothing more than more

and nothing is more habit than more and nothing is more loving than habit.

Cover illustration by Gabriel Liston lastwater.net

Sources for Historical Antecedents:

- Anonymous Middle English poem
   Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons*
- 3. They Might Be Giants, "Fingertips"

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