

CENTER OF A ROOM

Joseph Massey

Night's reached
our room. Close
the door. Say —

through this light —
what you wanted
said all day.

1.

From the rain you come
to stand here in silence
and find *it all out*.

2.

not saying much
only the candle
moves this evening

3.

rhythm of crickets
only a few beats faster
than your heart

4.

Branches — hours after
Dawn — tall shadows
on the blinds.

5.

Traffic or
is it rain
the window
won't hold
to silence.

6.

lopsided moon
over a field riding
the highway with us

7.

By design
no design.

Resigned
to this.

8.

stopped to feel
wind around a
pistachio tree
of Cezanne's

9.

Rain dims
to
breath.

With
first
word

falls
hard
again.

10.

Cricket — we're looking
at the fullest moon since we
moved here — keep it up.

11.

train replaces
sound of
your breath
sleeping
through it

12.

On the floor
your black sweater.
Already autumn.

13.

soon as I sit down open
to a cricket poem
bramble cricket begins

14.

beside reflection
of leaves
on the water
leaves

15.

Ear cupped
to gather
the rain's
phrasing.

16.

you arrive
as sparrows from rows
of pine release
across the moon
in daylight

17.

night no
cricket sounds

we close
both windows