

a.rawlings

from The North Suite

“Something really does happen to most people who go into the North — they become at least aware of the creative opportunity which the physical fact of the country represents and — quite often, I think — come to measure their own work and life against that rather staggering creative possibility: they become, in effect, philosophers.”

— Glenn Gould in “The Idea of North”

“Wolves evolve.”

— from “Vowels,” *Eunoia*, Christian Bök

“...the further north we went, the more monotonous...”

— Marianne Schroeder in “The Idea of North”

THE GREAT CANADIAN QUERY

WESTERN CANADA

Why are you here? How does your inquiry inform you? What are you hoping to learn? Why do you choose to study? What is your attraction to questioning? How does your environment define you? How does a language blend with its surroundings? How do you define ecopoetics? How does your use of English support or dissuade speciesism? Are human languages necessarily humancentric? How reliant on pronouns are you in order to communicate in verbal and written capacities? How aware are you of your use of pronouns? Is it possible for you to engage in conversation that does not position you as the central or primary focus?

SOUTHERN CANADA

How could a language be an ecosystem? How does a language become its own functional ecosystem? How do you enter into and survive in a linguistic environment? How do you engage with the written environment? How do your engagements and comments on the environment shift your relationship to language? How does your use of English reflect your values? With a reduction of linguistic resources, how is communication limited? How could a lipogram in a linguistic ecosystem reflect the creative redeployment of a society working with a limited set of resources? How could you employ a lipogram to reflect localitarianism? What systems can you employ or develop to reduce, reuse, and recycle language? How do you sustain your use of English given a limited character set? With the erasure of personal indicators or references to human/persona within writing, would the language eventually collapse or deteriorate? At what point would characters or ideas push forth and create space for, demand, or organically develop the need for new characters?

EASTERN CANADA

If the page is a field and letters the species populating it, how might my ecosystem translate into a written environment? How do species distribution maps correlate to English-language letter frequency usage? How does any human language reflect or resemble the ecosystem in which it originated? How much of my acquired oral language is based on mimicry of lost soundscapes? When I listen to my soundscape, do I construct a narrative from it? If so, how do I factor myself into that narrative? How do I project what I want to hear into a soundscape? How do I love what I want to hear? How do I hear what I want to love when I speak? How do I love what I want to hear when you speak? How am I capable of interspecies communication? How do I try to understand or decode other species' communications? What are the implications of learning the languages and life patterns of other species? What would I do with such knowledge? Do other species on Earth have a written language? What forms do other species' written languages take? What are human forms of visual, aural, kinetic, and olfactoric communication? What are

other species' forms of visual, aural, kinetic, and olfactoric communication? What is the communicative capacity of a plant? What is the communicative capacity of a planet?

NORTHERN CANADA

Were trout here? Were trees still here? Were moths here still? Owls or wolves? Who?

THE CANADIAN: WHO? WHERE?

In this area, within this boundary, inside this border, behind these lines: Wolves! Wolves! Wolves! Isolate vowels that relay emotion; then eliminate. Wlvs, wlvs. Whole selves threatened and because of what.

Interaction of different letters within a biocoenosis is evident at dinner. Notice how Os chase Ms. Vs hover over Ts, home in air or shell. Us stew on rotten Es as Ws mate. Biodiversity breeds words. Whowho lives in isolation. Not one, not I.

A toe traces a curve in sand. Hydro dams destroy emotion. Herons nest in trees. Where is the environment, this written forest of hoots and howls and letters and nonsense? In this area, this whole, this field.

Words are reused. Letters are reduced. Have I beavered in moose? I eye my shrew, fern, loon. Fish where I fern to loon. How everywhere, how nowhere, is my love.

Where is this area? Where is this boundary? Am I inside the border? Am I behind these lines? What are wolves? Where are wolves? Why are wolves? When do vowels relay emotion? Whose whole selves threaten? What?

Who interacts with letters? Where does she eat dinner? Why notice wolves? Hover where? Stew what? Breed when? Whowho lives in isolation?

Which toe is in the sand? Does emotion destroy hydro dams? Herons nest in trees? How is this nonsense useful? Where is this area? Where is this whole? Am I inside the field, too?

What words are reused? Which letters are reduced? Where is this moose? Who owns animals? Where am I? How aware am I?

The Committee initiates a wildlife-recovery system. Too soon? De- -ed. What of Canada?

TROUT SURVIVE

As early as the late nineteenth century, native Brook Trout in North America became threatened from many water courses as land development, forest clear-cutting, and industrialization took hold. Streams and creeks that were polluted, dammed, or silted up often became too warm to hold native brook trout, and were colonized by transplanted smallmouth bass and perch or other introduced species such as brown and rainbow trout. Brook Trout populations, if already stressed by overharvest or by temperature, are very susceptible to damage by the introduction of exotic species. In addition to chemical pollution and algae growth caused by runoff containing chemicals and fertilizers, air pollution has also been a significant factor in the disappearance of Brook Trout from their native habitats. Brook Trout populations across large parts of eastern Canada have been similarly depleted; a subspecies known as the aurora trout was threatened from the wild by the effects of acid rain.

WOLVES' ENEMIES

This is him within the Forest in, where he wolf the of moose in or seven feet. In in the of the. It the wolf the time the moose's. The wolf or, to route, is to the territory of or. It runs more or less. It in of of or, low or. In of winter. The the wolf or is the of former, they urine, often well. With the the serve to the. In snow, where the is, wolves in other's, so it often is to tell how of the. Most, the wolf. It is in is on the the of the. This to when wolves meet, the is thrown to the, stiffly for moment, when the or foe sniff. The urine to wolves for. Shown urine from wolf on the to the wolf or of wolves run. Of, often of to when urine is to the. The interest to the use of urine lure in wolves. There when wolves were not well with to from him. Of times on numerous, while those to North fewer. Whether these stories of the fertile, or truth, is to. There so of the "Where there is so, there some fire," the to these stories of wolves untruths.

MOSESSE EVERYWHERE

Mosses moss moss moss in moss of moss moss low moss. Mosses moss moss in moss moss the moss of moss. Mosses moss moss moss in moss moss moss stones in moss moss streets. Moss few moss moss wholly moss, moss moss, moss, moss very slow-moss moss. Wherever they moss, mosses moss moisture to survive moss of the moss moss moss thinness of tissues, moss of moss (moss moss to moss moss loss), moss the moss for moss moss to moss moss. Some mosses moss survive moss, moss to life within moss few hours of moss. This is moss to moss moss of the moss of moss moss for moss on the sun-moss moss of trees. In moss forests where moss moss not moss, mosses moss moss well on moss moss of the tree moss.

FLIES MEET

Eflfs flre lflfl on stones fllose to wflter on flflnt stems or leflves until they hfltlfh flnfl in some flflses hflve fleen flnown to lfly their eflfls in humflns flust unfler their sfln. On hfltlfhinfl, the lflrvfle flll into wflter or moist eflrth, feeflinfl vorflfliously on inverteflrfltes, suflh fls snflils flnfl eflrthworms.

WHIMS

iwillnotruintheenvironment iwlnotruhevm tmemorivhulw
livemuthworn fsy

they ils fe rh siun frli ty
their eunh weiy unnt yf ei ylis
fr vh hf his rf fo si
mh yh rw wwyft your lwy
fite ri nw them li

ms her ov ww vieh
rtee sh ho us
el su me wf snfi hw

nwo i ylhofh hhmfi
om nm el vt yv ol we
erls mf he lr im yn

ss vm om en uh them em
worl nfow wh you tm
em fi yl she wi vm
my ln ffs ohw
our hn im womli

un un worm sm oe
hu mu mshenm root
nt stem yh lt yh yt nn
rfyo er rush os siifh
iehm miiv hn thrush mli

mouse mn yf mf uts yfi
rfl lf yo llloeohi moss fe
itm mite rf tm ry ht

ht hm mutt eu fi sm
ls sl ssolow moose ow
moth euhmhn wrehuo

rn shrew ir iswisl si
lh lh rose lhhhl hl
synl storm lhm rv nu
hf imsyrmi iffs rw trout
ir tf ut horse hm wovmli

HER

Her flesh whole mess.

She fills the hole with letters.

The letters form units of sense.

She feels lost without sense.

She feels home within yesness.

TENOR

Heron or her on

TUNER

Her on tree in

LOOSEN

Life is not strife is infinitely finite.

LISTEN

Lonely offish.

Only of fish.