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**Reading Emily**

We do not read to know,  
but to be known—  
the reader comprehended  
by the poem.  

Yet slantwise,  
backwards, misconstrued  
with words that curve  
like cosmic space—  

the more they turn  
the further they return,  
the further strayed  
the more they stay in place.  

As boomerangs flung  
fly back home,  
so is it with the poem  
within her poems—  

enigmatic, epigrammatic—  
which crooked, slantwise  
ever straight  
circumambulate the soul,  

slip through the back gate  
like a recluse,  
who, though unseen,  
sees all. We read the lines  
she reads between.  

—Richard Schiffman  
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