



SPACE STRUCK

PAIGE LEWIS

POEMS

EIGHT QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In “Where I’m From, Every House is a House with an Obstructed View,” the speaker grows their secrets into an orchard. If you were to plant your secrets, what would they grow into?
2. What’s the most amazing magic trick you’ve ever witnessed? (This question is related to the poem “Magic Show”).
3. What do you think visitors from outer space would think about our behavior on earth? (This question is related to the poem “We Know Nothing About Your Bodies, But We Want To”).
4. In “Royal I” the speaker is the ruler of a kingdom. What would you do if you ruled a kingdom for a day? Who would you help? Who would you banish?
5. When you were a child, what parts of nature (flowers, insects, animals, etc.) did you try to keep all to yourself? (This question is related to “The River Reflects Nothing”).
6. In “St. Francis Disrobes,” the speaker is visited by St. Francis of Assisi. If you could be visited by anyone, living or dead, who would you want to see?
7. In “You Can Take Off Your Sweater, I’ve Made Today Warm,” where do you think the “you” of the poem might go?
8. What do you think your personal purgatory would look like? (This question is related to the poem “So You Want to Leave Purgatory”).



WRITING EXERCISES

1. What gets me writing is reading widely. When I sit down to write, I sit down with at least ten different poetry books next to me. I flip through them, never spending too much time with one book, until a word or line jolts me into writing.
2. Sketching memories. I will sometimes draw a small blueprint of a house or apartment I’ve lived. Then I try to remember and write down at least three memories associated with each room of that home. These memories often find their way into my poems.
3. A fun writing exercise is to watch a tv show or movie with the volume turned down so low that you can’t quite make out what is being said. Write down what you think you hear.

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