

From Blossoms

Li-Young Lee

From blossoms comes
this brown paper bag of peaches
we bought from the boy
at the bend in the road where we turned toward
5 signs painted *Peaches*.

From laden boughs,⁶ from hands,
from sweet fellowship in the bins,
comes nectar at the roadside, succulent⁸
peaches we devour, dusty skin and all,
10 comes the familiar dust of summer, dust we eat.

O, to take what we love inside,
to carry within us an orchard, to eat
not only the skin, but the shade,
not only the sugar, but the days, to hold
15 the fruit in our hands, adore it, then bite into
the round jubilation of peach.

There are days we live
as if death were nowhere,
in the background; from joy
20 to joy to joy, from wing to wing,
from blossom to blossom to
impossible blossom, to sweet impossible blossom.

6 The words *laden boughs* refer to tree limbs that are loaded with fruit.

8 *Succulent* means *juicy*.

16 *Jubilation* is a feeling of joy.

Liberty on the Terrace, 1999.
Ann Patrick. Oil on board.
Private Collection.

Line and Stanza What idea does the poet introduce in the first stanza?

Line and Stanza How does the poet use these lines to build on the ideas from the first stanza?

BQ BIG Question

In these lines, what words convey the speaker's appreciation for nature?