

DEBORAH PURDY

Try to Find a Reason

Every time you speak
there are several words
thousands of miles away—

Any one of these
an ordinary thread
in the language of the day.

It would not matter
if you took
a glass jar

to hold it.
The same words re-spoken
arrange themselves

in every direction—
This is the way
you will remember.

ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

“Try to Find a Reason” was created from *The ABC of Electricity* by William H. Meadowcroft (1888, revised edition 1915). About the poem and the process of composing it, Deborah Purdy writes:

“Try to Find a Reason” was constructed by skimming through the text of *The ABC of Electricity* and collecting words and phrases. Selections were then remixed to create meaningful context.

Deborah Purdy is the author of *Two Moons* (rinky dink press 2020), *Mermaids in the Basement* (dancing girl press 2021), and *Conjuring an Epiphany* (forthcoming from Finishing Line Press). Her work has also appeared in *The Blue Nib*, *The Wild Word*, *Mom Egg Review*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Moving Images: Poetry Inspired by Film*, and elsewhere. She lives in the Philadelphia area.

