

KAREN GEORGE

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Ars Poetica

A fountain, part riddle,  
language sacred ever since  
a child. To find meadow, palace, sea,  
give the world voice.  
When words whisper meaning,  
question, sigh, wither, dream,  
what might happen?

The path offers foolish,  
beautiful half-uttered words  
mumbled in confusion. Imagine  
how far you fancy  
quiet as a wisp of green.  
Milk want,  
examine peculiarities,  
fill the well,  
graze, quicken.

## ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

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“Ars Poetica” was created from “The Dragon’s Teeth,” a story in *Tanglewood Tales* by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1853). About the poem and the process of composing it, Karen George writes:

I selected “The Dragon’s Teeth” because I liked the title, and I quickly browsed the words and found that pages 61 and 62 contained the most words that interested me either by sound, image, or idea. I made a list of words I liked on each page in the order they appeared on the page, and began to see what words resonated with other words further down the page, until they began linking up into what I saw as an *ars poetica* poem.

Karen George is the author of *Swim Your Way Back* (Dos Madres Press 2014), *A Map and One Year* (Dos Madres Press 2018), and *Where Wind Tastes Like Pears* (Dos Madres Press 2021). Her work has appeared in *Sheila-Na-Gig Online*, *I-70 Review*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, *Writing in a Woman’s Voice*, *Poet Lore*, and elsewhere. Karen lives in Florence, Kentucky, and can be found online at [karenlgeorge.blogspot.com](http://karenlgeorge.blogspot.com).

HERON TREE  
23 February 2022  
[herontree.com/george6](http://herontree.com/george6)

