

DEBORAH PURDY

---

The Right Words

Instead of names  
there were just enough

questions  
far away from each other

already in the  
swift-moving stream of

a series of letters  
on a sheet of paper.

## ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

---

“The Right Words” was created from *Letters of a Radio-Engineer to His Son* by John Mills (1922). About the poem and the process of composing it, Deborah Purdy writes:

I skimmed through the text and compiled a selection of words and phrases to create a word/phrase bank of potential lines for the poem. After making selections for lines that fit the theme of the poem, I combined them to create stanzas with meaningful context. I then rearranged the stanzas into the form of the poem.

Deborah Purdy is the author of *Two Moons* (rinky dink press 2020), *Mermaids in the Basement* (dancing girl press 2021), and *Conjuring an Epiphany* (Finishing Line Press 2022). Her work has also appeared in *Black Bough Poetry*, *The Wild Word*, *Gingerbread House*, *Mom Egg Review*, *Moving Images: Poetry Inspired by Film*, and elsewhere. She lives in the Philadelphia area of Pennsylvania.

HERON TREE  
5 October 2022  
[herontree.com/purdy8](http://herontree.com/purdy8)

