

The Radiating Line

**i. A Feather**

—A feather—

the radiating line—

soft,

    yet

        firm,

no line too delicate—

curves

    smooth

        flowing

—feather fibers—

**ii. A Lily**

A quiver,

    a slight waviness,

the silken, waxy

surface of the petals

    demand no less delicacy

**iii. A Scallop Shell**

Rigid furrows:

    serrated surface

of the shell.

    Crustier.

More rugged.

## ABOUT THE POEM

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“The Radiating Line” was created from *Line & Form* by Walter Crane (1900). About the poem and the process of composing it, Colleen Kennedy writes:

Inspired by Walter Crane’s *Line & Form*, how he creates beautiful flourishes and details through the simplicity of the line, I found one paragraph where he succinctly describes the “radiating line” and how to sketch some objects. It is already such simple, but tactile language that it only needed to be stripped a little more to its essence and slightly rearranged to find its poetic form.

