

A window

by [D. S. Martin](#) in the [January 16, 2019](#) issue

A window is not as open as it seems
keeping out cold
 the pine needles' freshness
 the cardinal's call

A starling dives straight for it
veering off
 last second
when its gold surface gleams

Not as open as it seems like the job posting
soon filled by the boss's daughter
the chimney whose nest is only discovered
when smoke fills the room

A window is not as open as it seems
 & in the kitchen steams
 when we're boiling water
becoming clouded

Not as open or perhaps as clear
somewhat like the accidental click of a door
behind you a minnow trap with no way out
a blind eye a deaf ear

You can see the traffic on the river's far shore
but the bridge is a long way down
The hungry turtle prods your finger
through aquarium glass

A window is not as open as it seems
as darkness advances the outer world
is lost to its mirror & we're strangely

on display to passersby

The old man listens to the pastor's words

He smiles & nods smiles & nods