

# Biology: Course review

by [Marilyn McEntyre](#) in the [June 1, 2010](#) issue

If you forget what axons do,  
or how a virus invades a cell,  
remember this—

that light becomes food.  
That the seasons rhyme,  
a different word each time

turning soil into living song.  
That all things work together.  
Even death. Even decay.

That this is the way  
of the world we got: what is given  
grows by grace and care

and knows what it needs.  
That life is strong, and precarious,  
full of devices and desires.

That what we hold in common  
may not be owned. Control  
is costly. Close attention

is the reverence due  
whatever lives and moves,  
mutant and quick and clever.

That our neighbors—  
the plankton, the white pine,  
the busy nematodes—

serve us best  
in reciprocal gratitude:  
what they receive, they give.

The way the heart accepts  
what the vein delivers and sends it on,  
again. Again.