

To Be In Love

~Gwendolyn Brooks

To be in love
Is to touch with a lighter hand.
In yourself you stretch, you are well.
You look at things
Through his eyes.
A cardinal is red.
A sky is blue.
Suddenly you know he knows too.
He is not there but
You know you are tasting together
The winter, or a light spring weather.
His hand to take your hand is overmuch.
Too much to bear.
You cannot look in his eyes
Because your pulse must not say
What must not be said.
When he
Shuts a door-
Is not there_
Your arms are water.
And you are free
With a ghastly freedom.
You are the beautiful half
Of a golden hurt.
You remember and covet his mouth
To touch, to whisper on.
Oh when to declare
Is certain Death!
Oh when to apprise
Is to mesmerize,
To see fall down, the Column of Gold,
Into the commonest ash.

In your journal, respond to the poem by answer the following questions:

- According to the speaker, what does it mean to be in love?
- What do you think the metaphor, “your arms are water,” means?
- How do you interpret Brooks’s use of the imagery of “gold”?
- What is the most interesting or meaningful part of the poem to you?
- What is the poet’s message?

Your significant other...

- Leaves you home alone
- Steals your money
- Throws a big party for a bunch of strangers
- Buys himself/herself a nice gift
- Stays out all night—you think he/she may be hurt or dead!

What are you MOST upset about? Put these statements in order from most upsetting (1) to least upsetting (5).

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