

What Shall I Draw?

Draw a house with four walls
a white fence with a gate in it
four windows, a smoking chimney –
and the path must be lined
with cockleshells and sunflowers

What shall I draw next?

An apple tree and a plum tree
a sheet of grass, pale green,
a tent made from a blanket,
washing on the washing-line.

What shall I put in the house?

A face at the window looking out,
four chairs, a table, a bowl of fruit
and in the room with the red curtains
you can draw yourself, sleeping.

You can draw yourself, sleeping.
Even when the doors are shut
you can draw your way home.

Helen Dunmore