

They say that we have to share the English book-room with Careers

On my third
And final
Practicum
I retreat often
To the English book-room

In the quiet storage
Of predictable titles
And dusty disarray
I tidy up the tumbling-down

Although there are many books I have not read
Somehow everything seems familiar
-And silent

The books here
Are worn and torn
And tired
Some are even flattened-out completely

Surely they are not expecting students
To return all those lost pages
Excuse me, Miss -?

I wonder if I should keep these thin books
Almost weightless between delicate faded covers
But to throw them out would not be right

How many students have held these books
Fallen asleep upon them
Hidden behind them
Taped them back together

They say that grade-seven students
Are answering the telephones
At lunchtime in the schools
Now

They say that we have to share the English book-room
with Careers

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