



12-15-1994

Speech is Not Writing

Randy Prus

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

Recommended Citation

Prus, Randy (1994) "Speech is Not Writing," *Westview*: Vol. 14 : Iss. 2 , Article 19.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol14/iss2/19>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.

Speech is Not Writing

by Randy Prus

...for Doris Andrews

Intent on seeing one thing, other things
appear through the difference,
the full moon in the east becomes
clouded by stars in the north

the night's full moon veiled,
repeated in starlight, momentarily

as if language rendered the night
touchable

Observations strive for significance
like cottonwood trees or
cotton fields, but sometimes fail
the duty we assign them

the full moon's absence, clouded

On a ride home, through backroads
in a crowded car, cows,
stories appear on wooded hills.
Tender ears draw parasites
leading empiricists to study them
but the stories fade beyond
the curve of terrain.



The strength in knowing lies
in knowing words as words
as a preparation for knowing:
a country girl desires to move
above the drugstore in Paris,
where old men spoke like kings,
bones now white as Texas sunlight

as we speak together
our words fail us, fail
to transform what we touch
and are touched by

But the play, so essential to the drama
you call life, only finds itself
in writing, in uncertain terms,
in the pharmacy of letters.

