

# Seven Steps To The Wall

Jane Siberry

Seven steps to the wall  
and turn around  
seven steps to the window  
turn around  
three steps to the table - step around  
move the chair 'til it is square  
and then sit down  
DON'T TURN AROUND

There  
is a man  
in a room  
empty place  
there's a wall  
a table  
and a chair  
...his face

He wants to write something down  
he wants to sing a song  
or paint something  
lie down and fade away  
or get up and get away  
to the beat of the marching feet  
in the heat of the prison heat

There  
there's the sun  
through the bars  
cutting swathes  
lighting dust  
I love dust  
that it's there  
that it falls

He wants to write something down ...

Seven steps to the wall ...

There  
is a man  
in a room  
empty place  
there's a wall  
a table  
some paper  
...his face

He wants to write something down ...

There  
all my life  
where there's white  
I have words  
so I write ...  
what I hear  
...perfect white

...with no words

It is thin  
but it's clear  
it is thin but it's clear