**Abstraction**

a poem

is not a picture

*red* is not red

but a description of red

red things are describable

who can describe a colour?

that section

of the radiation spectrum

that lies between heat and orange

at a wavelength range of 625–760 nm

is not a description

but a definition.

i cannot say red

to a blind man

and have him know red

i can speak of blood

or the plumage of cardinals

these things are known

to anyone with eyes

i can tell you

a deep fire

and you will see an almost red

but you will never see red

if you do not know red

this is the tragedy of poetry

if you know red

i can make you think red

paint red pictures in your head

this is the glory of poetry

there are paintings

so real they could be photos

a poem is not like this

there are paintings

that are nothing but red

a poem

that was nothing but red

would be a boring poem indeed

of course, those paintings are boring too

red things:

old leather books

hot ferraris

stop signs

a rose in summer

be grateful