

"think of it: not so long ago  
this was a village"

"yes; i know"

"of human beings who prayed and sang:  
or am i wrong?"

"no, you're not wrong"

"and worked like hell six days out of seven"  
"to die as they lived: in the hope of heaven"

"didn't two roads meet here?"

"they did;

and over yonder a schoolhouse stood"

"do i remember a girl with blue-  
sky eyes and sun-yellow hair?"

"do you?"

"absolutely"

"that's very odd,

for i've never forgotten one freckle-faced lad"

"what could have happened to her and him?"

"maybe they waked and called it a dream"

"in this dream were there green and gold  
meadows?"

"through which a lazy brook strolled"

"wonder if clover still smells that way;  
up in the mow"

"full of new-mown hay"

"and the shadows and sounds and silences"

"yes, a barn could be a magical place"

"nothing's the same: is it"

"something still

remains, my friend; and always will"

"namely?"

"if any woman knows,

one man in a million ought to guess"

"what of the dreams that never die?"

"turn to your left at the end of the sky"

"where are the girls whose breasts begin?"

"under the boys who fish with a pin"