



## Reader's Guide

from Trey Moody  
author of *Thought That Nature*

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### *Author Asks*

1. Clearly, our planet is threatened by various human-made decisions; how does this book attempt to reconcile this fact?
  2. What questions do the poems' speakers seem to be asking about their surroundings?
  3. I often use various kinds of rhyme; how does this technique contribute to your understandings of the poems in our contemporary context?
  4. Why is the book structured in three sections?
  5. Why is the "A Weather" sequence written in prose?
  6. Obviously I enjoy writing sequences; how does a sequence differ in its relationship to its subject than, say, a long poem?
  7. The middle section, Lancaster County Notebook, grafts language from *The Lewis and Clark Journals*; does this "borrowing" make you consider your own questions of history, representation, authority, originality, etc.?
  8. My poems are often quite short; how does the resultant white space contribute to your understanding of the poems?
  9. Many conventional tropes are found throughout the book, such as birds, trees, skies, etc.; are these conventions relevant in 2014?
  10. What other books or issues does my book seem to be in conversation with?
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### *Writing Exercises*

1. Take a recurring word or phrase that has often made its way into your poems. With anaphora in mind, write a poem that repeats this word or phrase over and over, eventually varying the repetition's phrasing in different ways. Your mind fixates on this word or phrase for an obsessive reason: joy, confusion, or even out of laziness. Whatever the reason, exploit this obsession.

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2. Using the published journals or letters of someone who interests you, for a week or a month or a year, whenever you write a poem, graft their language from the same date on which you are writing into your poem. Inevitably, a rich conversation will emerge.

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## *Suggested Reading*

Lorine Niedecker: *Collected Works*

Francis Ponge: *Selected Poems*

Robert Creeley: *Selected Poems*

R. W. Franklin's *The Poems of Emily Dickinson*

Wallace Stevens: *Harmonium*

Yannis Ritsos: *Selected Poems 1938-1988*

*From the Country of Eight Islands: An Anthology of Japanese Poetry*

George Oppen: *New Collected Poems*

William Carlos Williams: *Spring and All*

*The Lewis and Clark Journals*

Stephen M. Meyer: *The End of the Wild*