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## Reading the Signs

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## Pero: Reading the Signs

### READING THE SIGNS

Alice Pero

We are free to read signs  
or not  
I think it's better to observe directly:  
Rocks as they fall  
Floods as they come  
Deer as they run in front of the car

I prefer signs that read:  
"Warning: beach site brings passion"  
"Careful: affectionate birds"  
"Not responsible for bad poems inspired by pigeons"  
"Moon may bring on madness. Gaze at own risk"

We need protection against the very worst dangers  
At home, flashing lights when the wife is angry  
Sirens when the husband's steak is overcooked

Traffic signals have it wrong  
Red is for passion and means "Go"  
Green indicates the coming of spring when we slow down  
to smell the sweet air  
Yellow means jaundice and for that we need bright sunlight,  
so the light should stay on indefinitely

I understand why people in cars are confused  
They have the wrong priorities and don't know  
how to read the signs  
They have been in cars too long  
reading instruction books  
memorizing signals