

FIGURE/GROUND

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In psychology the perceiving of two distinct objects, but whenever one is identified, the other fades into the background.

He believes
 for a second
that he sees
 faces
 of his children

wrapped amid
 cloudbanks
in that fulcrum
 of moment when
dawn overtakes dark.

But he knows how
later they will fade,
 overtaken by
a winter bitter
 as lost chances,

harder to grasp than

ash on air,
that fades west,
always west
into a night of lost hills.