

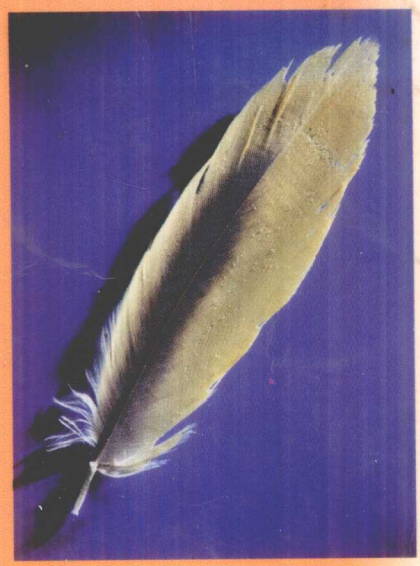
Images of Self

Technology

HISTORY

Jocelyn Siler
Kate Gadow
Mark Medvetz

health



Nature and the Environment

film

work

SCIENCE

a sense of place

THE QUILL READER

C I S U W

Growing Up

THE QUILL READER



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G252/n

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PREFACE

We designed every aspect of the Quill Reader, from its organization and reading and writing chapters to its selections, to encourage students to become active members of the reading community. From our first early discussions about the book, we envisioned it as an invitation and introduction to the life-changing process of interactive, critical reading.

Therefore, in order to lead students from personal concerns toward larger cultural and philosophical ones, we have organized the thematic sections in the book to progress from early chapters on the individual and the individual's place in society through middle chapters centering on cultural and historic matters to the final chapters focusing on art and on philosophy and religion.

In addition, rather than include closed, text-specific discussion questions or assignments at the ends of chapters, we have designed open, conceptual assignments that are integrated throughout the first two introductory chapters. Chapter One, *Strategies for Critical Reading*, and Chapter Two, *Responding by Writing*, connect the reading and writing processes and introduce students to general principles that can be applied to the reading of all texts. Rather than lead students toward a particular "correct" judgment of a text's meaning, the critical reading strategies in Chapter One invite students to read interactively by making evidence-supported cases for their judgments of meaning; any judgment that can be supported with evidence from the text is considered a credible judgment.

Furthermore, so as not to influence students' readings of selections nor to limit what they might learn about the writers whose work appears here, we have introduced each selection with only the date and place of original publication. In place of the standard biographical notes about writers and summaries of selections that tend to shut down independent inquiry and group discussion, in Chapter One we have included assignments that direct students to research authors and to discuss the results of their research with classmates. Our own experience with author-search assignments has shown us that they enhance the reading process in a number of significant ways. In the process of researching, students learn how to be more active and interactive readers; the biographical and critical information students encounter helps flesh out writers into three dimensional people whose ideas are discussed and challenged by other writers and thinkers. In addition, reading biographical and critical information about a particular writer often leads students to read other texts written by that writer.

Finally, and most importantly, we have brought together what we believe to be the finest and most diverse selection of readings ever assembled in a college text. The texts included here are diverse in a number of ways: they are contemporary and ancient, brief as well as long, written by students as well as professionals; and they represent a variety of genres. Internet “zines” are included along with classic essays; student selections include prose poems as well as academic research papers. In the chapter on philosophy and religion, alongside selections by Sartre and Plato, we have included an excerpt from Neil Gaiman’s comic-book novel *Death—The Time of Your Life*. In addition, we are particularly proud that many of the readings here are anthologized for the first time.

Choosing the reading selections (reading and rereading them) has been the most exciting part of this project. Although many of the selections included here were favorites suggested by one or another of us, many were altogether new reading experiences. We invite you to follow us as readers, and we wish you good reading—and great thinking.

We are grateful to the following reviewers for their advice on the drafting and revision of the book: Deborah Barberousse, Montgomery Community College; Dan Butcher, Southeastern Louisiana University; Scott Douglass, Chattanooga State Technical Community College; Paul Heilker, Virginia Tech; Michael Léger, University of Texas at Arlington; and Judy Pearce, Montgomery College. Also we thank the following employees of Harcourt College Publishers for their guidance and support: Julie McBurney, Acquisitions Editor; Camille Adkins, Senior Developmental Editor; Parrish Glover, Project Editor; Sue Hart, Art Director; and Cindy Young, Production Manager.

JOCELYN SILER
KATE GADBOW
MARK MEDVETZ

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GROWING UP 17

Patricia Hampl, Memory and Imagination 18

To write one's life is to live it twice, and the second living is both spiritual and historical.

Megan McNamer, Longing and Bliss 27

I desired the players and I desired a certain way to be. Long-limbed and loose. Sweating victory. In this respect, there was something both satisfying and heartrending about basketball.

Dorothy Allison, Gun Crazy 32

It an't about careful, it's about you're a girl. You can whine and wiggle all you wont. An't nobody in this family gonna teach you to shoot.

Luc Sante, Living in Tongues 35

French is a pipeline to my infant self, to its unguarded emotions and even to its preserved sensory impressions.

Judy Blunt, Breaking Clean 41

Like my parents and grandparents, I was born and trained to live there. I could rope and ride and jockey a John Deere swather as well as my brothers, but being female, I also learned to bake bread and can vegetables and reserve my opinion when the men were talking.

Dick Gregory, Shame 46

I never learned hate at home, or shame. I had to go to school for that.

Lê Thi Diem Thúy, The Gangster We Are All Looking For 49

Ma says war is a bird with a broken wing flying over the countryside, trailing blood and burying crops in sorrow. If something grows in spite of this, it is both a curse and a miracle.

Henry Louis Gates Jr., In the Kitchen 59

You could be as ugly as homemade sin dipped in misery and still be thought attractive if you had good hair.

Bernard Cooper, A Clack of Tiny Sparks: Remembrances of a Gay Boyhood 65

I have few regrets. But one is that I hadn't said to Theresa, "Of course I'm a fag."

Richard Rodriguez, Asians 72

My Mexican father still regards America with skepticism from the high window of his morning paper.

Mary Crow Dog, Lakota Woman 82

Whenever a Crow Dog got together with some relatives, such as those equally untamed, unregenerate Iron Shells, Good Lances, Two Strikes, Picket Pines, or Hollow Horn Bears, then you could hear the sound of the can gleska, the drum, telling all the world that a Sioux ceremony was in the making. It took courage and suffering to keep the flame alive, the little spark under the snow.

Marie Howe, The Boy (poetry) 86

What happened in our house taught my brothers how to leave, how to walk/ down a sidewalk without looking back.

Stephanie Vaughn, Dog Heaven (fiction) 87

Every so often that dead dog dreams me up again.

Joy Williams, Train (fiction) 95

She was surrounded by strangers saying crazy things, and had been for quite some while.

Stacy Alexander, On Your Feet—On Your Heart (student essay) 107

CHAPTER 4

IMAGES OF SELF 111

Joan Didion, On Self-Respect 112

However long we postpone it, we eventually lie down alone in that notoriously uncomfortable bed, the one we make ourselves. Whether or not we sleep in it depends, of course, on whether or not we respect ourselves.

Jorge Luis Borges, Borges and Myself 115

It's to the other man, to Borges, that things happen.

Paul Theroux, Being a Man 116

It is very hard to imagine a concept of manliness that does not belittle women, and it begins very early.

Brent Staples, Just Walk on By: A Black Man Ponders His Power to Alter Public Space 119

In time, I learned to smother the rage I felt at so often being taken for a criminal.

Adrienne Rich, Split at the Root: An Essay on Jewish Identity 122

I have to face the sources and the flickering presence of my own ambivalence as a Jew; the daily, mundane anti-Semitism of my entire life.

Maggie Helwig, Hunger 132

This is what we are saying as we starve: it is not all right. It is not all right. It is not all right.

Natalie Kusz, Ring Leader 136

Hiding from public scrutiny became for me, as for many people like me, a way of life.

Stephen Kuusisto, Navigating the Dark World 140

Legally blind, I know the eternal Freudian slip of misread signs and advertisements, the whirlwind of colors and halos, a road of mental escapades.

Sherman Alexie, White Men Can't Drum 143

Perhaps these white men should learn to dance within their own circle before they so rudely jump into other circles. Perhaps white men need to learn more about patience before they can learn what it means to be a man, Indian or otherwise.

Jonathan Kozol, from Rachel and Her Children 146

But homelessness is not an act of God. It is an act of man.

bell hooks, Keeping Close to Home: Class and Education 149

It is crucial that those among us who resist and rebel, who survive and succeed, speak openly and honestly about our lives and the nature of our personal struggles, the means by which we resolve and reconcile contradictions.

Caroline Patterson, Spikes and Slow Waves 159

When you have a lifelong condition like epilepsy, people want to take care of you. When you abdicate responsibility for yourself, others try to take it for you. It is an impulse of kindness. Of concern. And it is deadly, for it deprives you of your own experience.

Amy Tan, In the Canon, For All the Wrong Reasons 171

Reviewers and students have enlightened me about not only how I write but why I write.

Judith Ortiz Cofer, Silent Dancing 174

It became my father's obsession to get out of the barrio, and thus we were never permitted to form bonds with the place or with the people who lived there.

Langston Hughes, Theme for English B (poetry) 181

It's not easy to know what is true for you or me.

Tim O'Brien, The Things They Carried (fiction) 182

They carried the land itself—Vietnam, the place, the soil—a powdery orange-red dust that covered their boots and fatigues and faces. They carried the sky.

Isaac Grenfell, All the Difference (student essay) 196

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WORK 199

Al Hoff, "An Ambassador of Washington DC" or The Best Worst Job I Ever Had 200

It was one of the suckiest jobs I've held, and that includes my short careers in ironing, answering an 800 number for Air Force recruiting, selling floor sample furniture out of a tent in a parking lot, recommending gifts at a department store bridal registry, and checking hats.

Bertrand Russell, Work 203

Most of the work that most people have to do is not in itself interesting, but even such work has certain great advantages. To begin with, it fills a good many hours of the day without the need of deciding what one shall do.

Malcolm X, Shoeshining 208

"But you got to get a whole lot faster. You can't waste time!" Freddie showed me how fast on my own shoes.

Studs Terkel, Workers 210

The role one plays when hustling had nothing to do with who you are. It's only fitting and proper you take another name.

Black Elk, Playing War 232

The horsebacks from the different bands would line up and charge upon each other, yelling; and when the ponies came together on the run, they would rear and flounder and scream in a big dust, and the riders would seize each other, wrestling until one side had lost all its men, for those who fell upon the ground were counted dead.

Gloria Steinem, The Importance of Work 233

Obviously, the real work revolution won't come until all productive work is rewarded—including child rearing and other jobs done in the home—and men are integrated into so-called women's work as well as vice versa.

Barbara Lazear Ascher, On Power 238

The outsider tends to think that once inside the power structure the voyage is over, destination reached. No more struggle or strain. But in fact, once you have "arrived" you discover that there are power structures within the power.

Alberto Alvaro Rios, Green Cards 241

Arizona was the last state to hold out against minimum wage, championing the laissez-faire system of government oversight: in this case, let the growers pay what the workers will accept and don't get in the way.

W. H. Auden, Work, Labor, and Play 244

Technology and the division of labor have done two things: by eliminating in many fields the need for special strength or skill; they have made a very large number of paid occupations which formerly were enjoyable work into boring labor, and by increasing productivity they have reduced the number of necessary laboring hours.

Henry Louis Gates Jr., Delusions of Grandeur 246

The failure of our public schools to educate athletes is part and parcel of the schools' failure to educate almost everyone.

Roger Swardson, Greetings from the Electronic Plantation 248

"Interface" is a word that tells millions of American workers where we fit. We are devices between you and a computer system.

Gary Soto, One Last Time 254

Yesterday I saw the movie *Ghandi* and recognized a few of the people—not in the theater but in the film. I saw my relatives, dusty and thin as sparrows, returning from the fields with hoes balanced on their shoulders.

Douglas Coupland, Quit Your Job (fiction) 260

I like Margaret. She tries hard. She's older, and attractive in a hair-spray-and-shoulder-pads-twice-divorced survivor kind of way.

Kevin Canty, Dogs (fiction) 264

You report at eleven, you kill the night's dogs at twelve, from two till four you hose down the cages, after four the shelter doesn't care what you do.

Lyle John Jorgenson, Labor in the United States During the Early Twentieth Century: A Rise in Power (student essay) 267

CHAPTER 6

A SENSE OF PLACE 279

Jamaica Kincaid, On Seeing England for the First Time 280

No one I knew liked eating so much food so early in the day; it made us feel sleepy, tired. But this breakfast business was Made in England like almost everything else that surrounded us, the exceptions being the sea, the sky, and the air we breathed.

Italo Calvino, Cities and the Dead 288

I thought: "You reach a moment in life when, among the people you have known, the dead outnumber the living. And the mind refuses to accept more faces, more expressions: on every new face you encounter, it prints the old forms, for each one it finds the most suitable mask."

Ishmael Reed, My Neighborhood 289

In a time when dour thinkers view alienation and insensitivity toward the plight of others as characteristics of the modern condition, I think I'm lucky to live in a neighborhood where people look out for one another.

Mary Clearman Blew, The Sow in the River 296

How can I trust memory, which slips and wobbles and grinds its erratic furrows like a bald-tired truck fighting for traction on a wet gumbo road?

N. Scott Momaday, Sacred and Ancestral Ground 301

It is a landscape of great clarity; its vastness is that of the ocean. It is the near revelation of infinity.

Tom Wolfe, O Rotten Gotham: Sliding Down into the Behavioral Sink 306

It is the sheer overcrowding, such as occurs in the business sections of Manhattan five days a week and in Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant, southeast Bronx every day—sheer overcrowding is converting New Yorkers into animals in a sink pen.

Beverly Lowry, Getting to Know Mister Lincoln 315

I stared at pictures of him for long minutes at a time. There was nothing about his life I did not find moving and significant. And I began to depend on his presence. In my life as a visitor, Abraham Lincoln became a constant.

Kathleen Norris, The Beautiful Places 319

The land and sky of the West often fill what Thoreau termed our "need to witness our limits transgressed." Nature, in Dakota, can indeed be an experience of the holy.

Ian Frazier, Take the F 325

Like many Americans, I fear living in a no-where, in a place that is no-place; in Brooklyn, that doesn't trouble me at all.

Jack Kerouac, Passing through Tangiers 332

But it was on this trip that the great change took place in my life which I called a "complete turningabout" on that earlier page, turning from a youthful brave sense of adventure to a complete nausea concerning experience in the world at large, a revulsion in all the six senses.

Ted Kooser, Shooting a Farmhouse (poetry) 335

In a month you can see sky/ through the tail of the windmill.

Bobbie Ann Mason, Shiloh (fiction) 336

He had begun to realize that in all the years he was on the road he never took time to examine anything. He was always flying past scenery.

Edith Wharton, Roman Fever (fiction) 347

So these two ladies visualized each other, each through the wrong end of her little telescope.

Heather Sundheim, Bees and Bricks (student essay) 357

CHAPTER 7

HISTORY 363

Herbert Butterfield, The Originality of the Old Testament 364

Their God had stepped into history and kept his ancient Promise, bringing them to freedom and the Promised Land, and they simply could not get over it.

Garrison Keillor, A Sixties Party 368

I missed the fun I used to have getting dressed in the morning.

Peter Farb and George Armelagos, The Patterns of Eating 369

Changes in table manners through time, as they have been documented for western Europe, likewise reflect fundamental changes in human relationships.

George Woodcock, The Tyranny of the Clock 373

It is a frequent circumstance of history that a culture or civilization develops the device that will later be used for its destruction.

Edward Hallett Carr, The Historian and His Facts 376

History cannot be written unless the historian can achieve some kind of contact with the mind of those about whom he is writing.

*Barbara Tuchman, "This Is the End of the World":
The Black Death* 392

Ignorance of the cause augmented the sense of horror. Of the real carriers, rats and fleas, the 14th century had no suspicion, perhaps because they were so familiar.

Jane Brox, Influenza 1918 403

It had started as a seemingly common thing—what the linestorm season always brings, born on its wind and on our breath, something that would run its course in the comfort of camphor and bed rest.

Walt Whitman, Death of Abraham Lincoln 409

The final use of the greatest men of a Nation is, after all, not with reference to their deeds in themselves, or their direct bearing on their times or lands.

Kildare Dobbs, Gallipoli 416

Men in the front line, at the cutting edge of battle, are not aware of the big picture. They know only what confronts them.

Hannah Arendt, Denmark and the Jews 425

It is the only case we know of in which the Nazis met with open resistance, and the result seems to have been that those exposed to it changed their minds.

Henry David Thoreau, The Battle of the Ants 429

I have no doubt that it was a principle they fought for, as much as our ancestors, and not to avoid a three-penny tax on their tea.

Jana Harris, Cattlekilling Winter, 1889–90 (poetry) 431

Flour and sugar gone, rumor our daily bread.

James Welch, from Fools Crow (fiction) 434

Rides-at-the-door would say some words that would make them all see a reason to go on. He could talk with the wind's strength.

Ron Hansen, Wickedness (fiction) 445

She ought to look out for their winters, the doctor said. Weather in Nebraska could be the wickedest thing she ever saw.

Heidi Fehllhaber, Human Rights Violations in Tibet (student essay) 458

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FILM, TELEVISION, AND MUSIC 473

Susan Allen Toth, Going to the Movies 474

In the movies I go to by myself, the men and women always like each other.

Gish Jen, Challenging the Asian Illusion 476

For the most part, however, film, television and theater, from Miss Saigon to Teen-Age Mutant Ninja Turtles, have persisted in perpetuating stereotypes.

Michael Dorris, Dances with Indians 480

Or will it turn out, once again, that the only good Indians, the only Indians whose causes and needs this country can embrace, are lodged safely in the past, wrapped neatly in the blankets of history, comfortable magnets for our sympathy because they require nothing of us but tears in a dark theater.

Susan Sontag, A Century of Cinema 483

Cinema, once heralded as the art of the twentieth century, seems now, as the century closes numerically, to be a decadent art.

Steven Stark, Where the Boys Are 487

The unspoken premise of much of American pop culture today is that a large group of men would like nothing better than to go back to their junior high school locker rooms and stay there.

Marie Winn, TV Addiction 492

In a way the lives of heavy viewers are as imbalanced by their television "habit" as a drug addict's or an alcoholic's. They are living in a holding pattern, as it were, passing up the activities that lead to growth or development or a sense of accomplishment.

Neil Postman, Future Schlock 496

There are other ways to achieve stupidity, and it appears that, as in so many other things, there is a distinctly American way.

John Leonard, Why Blame TV? 503

We were a violent culture before television, from Wounded Knee to the lynching bee, and we'll be one after all our children have disappeared by video game into the pixels of cyberspace.

P. J. O'Rourke, Fiddling While Africa Starves 507

The lust for power that destroys the benighted Ethiopia has the same fountainhead as the lust for fame that propels the lousy pop band.

Aaron Copland, How We Listen to Music 510

In a sense, the ideal listener is both inside and outside the music at the same moment, judging it and enjoying it, wishing it would go one way and watching it go another—almost like the composer at the moment he composes it.

Jack Santino, Rock and Roll as Music; Rock and Roll as Culture 514

Rock music is a part of society. It should not be singled out as the single effective agent of change within society.

Lena Williams, A Black Fan of Country Music Finally Tells All 523

I liked country's wild side; its down-home, aw-shucks musicians with the yodel in their voices and the angst in their lyrics."

Sharon Olds, The Death of Marilyn Monroe (poetry) 525

Even death/ seemed different to him—a place where she/ would be waiting.

Patricia Goedicke, Because My Mother Was Deaf She Played the Piano (poetry) 526

my mother and maybe yours/ pounding the ivories or not, with the same pulsing/ up from the guts *obbligato* that's always changing/ and never, Tallulah Bankhead, your huskiness/ is ours.

John Cheever, The Enormous Radio (fiction) 529

Irene was proud of her living room, she had chosen its furnishings and colors as carefully as she chose her clothes, and now it seemed to her that the new radio stood among her intimate possessions like an aggressive intruder.

James Baldwin, Sonny's Blues (fiction) 537

"I won't" he said flatly, "die trying not to suffer. At least, not any faster than anybody else."

Ben Hausmann, Wished on the Moon (student essay) 562

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Aldo Leopold, The Land Ethic 564

Your true modern is separated from the land by many middlemen, and by innumerable physical gadgets. He has no vital relation to it; to him it is the space between cities on which crops grow.

William Shakespeare, Sonnet 33 (poetry) 577

Full many a glorious morning have I seen.

Barry Lopez, Gone Back Into the Earth 578

With the loss of self-consciousness, the landscape opens.

Dave Foreman, Earth First 584

The idea of wilderness, after all, is the most radical in human thought—more radical than Paine, than Marx, than Mao.

Al Gore, Ships in the Desert 588

With our backs turned to the place in nature from which we came, we sense an unfamiliar tide rising and swirling around our ankles, pulling at the sand beneath our feet.

Joy Williams, Save the Whales, Screw the Shrimp 601

The ecological crisis cannot be resolved by politics. It cannot be solved by science or technology. It is a crisis caused by culture and character, and a deep change in personal consciousness is needed.

Bill McKibbin, from The End of Nature 611

The greenhouse effect is the first environmental problem we can't escape by moving to the woods.

Terry Tempest Williams, The Clan of One-Breasted Women 620

The flash of light in the night in the desert I had always thought was a dream developed into a family nightmare.

Rachel Carson, Elixirs of Death 626

For the first time in the history of the world, every human being is now subjected to contact with dangerous chemicals, from the moment of conception until death.

Noel Perrin, Forever Virgin: The American View of America 640

Well, what I mean by nature is more than pretty scenery, but slightly less than the whole goddam machinery. I mean everything that exists on this planet (or elsewhere) that was not made by man.

Pattiann Rogers, Rolling Naked in the Morning Dew (poetry) 648

And I admit to believing myself, without question,/ In the magical powers of dew on the cheeks.

Jorie Graham, Reading Plato (poetry) 650

These men along the lush/ green banks/trying to slip in/ and pass/ for the natural world.

David James Duncan, from The River Why (fiction) 651

Next, she leapt to the very tip of the snag, turned the rod around backwards and threw it, like a javelin, upstream after the speeding fish!

T. Coraghessan Boyle, Heart of a Champion (fiction) 659

In the woods Timmy steps on a rattler and the dog bites its head off. "Gosh," he says. "Good girl, Lassie."

Jesse Scott, The Pursuit of Life (student essay) 665

CHAPTER 10

HEALTH, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY 669

Emelye, Cyberscared 670

I don't want to spend my free-time existing bodiless in cyberspace. I could spend my whole life walking the streets of New York and not know everything. I'd rather start there than at a computer prompt.

Elissa Ely, Dreaming of Disconnecting a Respirator 672

The medical truth is that this patient exists without being alive. The legal neutrality is that existence is all that is required.

Anne Fausto-Sterling, Society Writes Biology 673

Nevertheless, the associations of male/presence/active and female/absence/passive still govern our concepts of human development and influence the language used to explain them in the current literature.

Evelyn Fox Keller, From Working Scientist to Feminist Critic 680

I had shifted attention from the question of male and female nature to that of beliefs about male and female nature, that is to gender ideology. And I had admitted the possibility that such beliefs could affect science itself.

Deborah Blum, The Monkey Wars 684

In my judgment, we have an obligation to tell the public what we're about. And the fact that we haven't done that, I think, is one of the greatest mistakes over the last half-century, hell, the last century, that scientists have made.

Jean Bethke Elshtain, Ewegenics 690

There would be no Mozart if there were forty Mozarts.

Ruth Macklin, Human Cloning? Don't Just Say No 693

While human cloning might not offer great benefits to humanity, no one has yet made a persuasive case that it would do any real harm, either.

Peggy Orenstein, Get a Cyberlife 694

There will be those who use VR rudely, stupidly, dangerously—just as they do the telephone or the computer.

Gary Chapman, Flamers 702

While a middle-class, suburban white man may tend not to adopt a nom *d'ordinateur*, millions of electronic Walter Mittys nationwide do take on a more aggressive personality behind a computer and a modem—ferociously pouring out their otherwise sublimated middle-class angst.

Walt Whitman, When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer (poetry) 705

In the mystical moist night-air, and from time to time,/ Look'd up in perfect silence at the stars.