

HOW-TO: AN ORANGE

Laura Lussier

Something to do with an orange:

Unpeel
and tuck a wedge
neatly behind the curve
of each of your ears
so that everything you hear today
will be soft and orange.
Listen - people
are speaking citrus to you.
It sounds like Spanish whispered.
People are saying -
Five minutes til the train comes.
I don't have any cash.
Today's another Thursday.

When to do this with an orange:

Do this only
when the sun is round
and the day is warm.
Avoid rain.
On a rainy day,
the orange wedges
will droop down
over your ears
and fall to the ground
like two fat noodles.
If this happens,
leave them for the snails,
who will nibble the fruit
to hear citrus speak
in echoes in their shells -
The snails will listen
to the singing
of your rainy day sounds.

What to do with the orange when you're done:

When the sun is down,
pinch your orange
and let the juice
drip, dribble
down the funnel of your ears.
It's cold.
Don't mind the sting.
Listen.
All else is quiet,
except the orange in your ears.
Sleep to the sound
of today's orange talk humming.