

## 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.