

To Lorine Niedecker

Tell me: how
does one do
it, this trick:
condensery?

Careful cuts
on the tongue
after reading
suggest surgical

precision. Perhaps
pres-
sure. Like slipping

a hand
between
fat mattress

rough box
spring, only dark-
er. Deeper.

What did Blackhawk Island teach you?

If I could go there,
would I see you
kneeling on the shore,

dipping your tea cup
into the lake?

Would you let me take
a sip?