

Mary and Sarah

Mary likes smooth things,
Things that glide:
Sleek skis swishing down a mountainside.

Sarah likes rough things,
Things that snatch:
Boats with barnacled bottoms, thatch.

Mary likes smooth things,
Things all meow:
Milk, silk, runny honey, tunes on a cello.

Sarah likes rough things,
Things all trouby:
Craggs, snags, bristles, thistles, fields left stubbly.

Mary says - polish,
Sarah says - rust,
Mary says - mayonnaise,
Sarah says - crust.

Sarah says - hedgehogs,
Mary says - seals,
Sarah says - sticklebacks,
Mary says - eels.

Give me, says Mary
The slide of a stream,
The touch of a petal,
A bowl of ice-cream,

Give me, says Sarah,
The gales of a coast,
The husk of a chestnut,
A plate of burnt toast...

Mary and Sarah -
They'll never agree
Till peaches and coconuts
Grow on one tree.

Richard Edwards.

Week 1