

## ADRIENNE RICH

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### Ghost of a Chance

You see a man  
trying to think.

You want to say  
to everything:

5 Keep off! Give him room!  
But you only watch,  
terrified  
the old consolations  
will get him at last  
10 like a fish  
half-dead from flopping  
and almost crawling  
across the shingle,  
almost breathing  
15 the raw, agonizing  
air  
till a wave  
pulls it back blind into the triumphant  
sea.

1962/1963

