

**“Things” prompts for high school students, from YWA Writing Mentor, Carter Mckenzie**  
(used fall term, '09 in her after school workshops)

1. From **The Forest Lover**, a novel by Susan Vreeland: “It was more than a tree....It was the manifestation of the attitude that had brought her this far: reaching....The things in a painting were only bits of visible evidence of a still, small voice whispering a truth.”

Write about seeing things as an act of reaching.

2. Inspired by **Poetry: An Introduction**, by Michael Meyer, p. 323:

“Water, is taught by thirst” by Emily Dickinson (c.1859)

Water, is taught by thirst.

Land—by the Oceans passed.

Transport—by throe—

Peace—by its battles told—

Love, by Memorial Mold—

Birds, by the Snow.

Inspired by Dickinson’s poem, write your own poem demonstrating how one thing is “taught” by another.