

# How Poets Die

*by* Bill Yarrow

Mark Strand

over decades  
a steady diet of diction  
enlarged his heart

one day it just burst

Robert Frost

a crazy idea  
that he could  
build a wall  
without mortar took  
possession of his mind

he piled stone  
on stone higher  
and higher until  
they toppled over  
crushing him beneath

Wilfred Owen

a bullet (not his own)  
to the brain

Dylan Thomas

many believe he died  
from alcohol poisoning

that's not so  
early on his brain caught fire

and it took twenty-two years  
to burn itself out

T.S. Eliot  
hardening of the  
sensibility

Allen Ginsberg  
run over  
by New Jersey

Wallace Stevens  
overdose  
of indemnity

William Carlos Williams  
He (an obstetrician) died

when  
he discovered

he could  
no longer

deliver

John Berryman  
jumped off  
Hart Crane's  
bridge

Hart Crane  
born  
without ears

it was only a matter of time

