

# learning to unread

by Jeff Swanson

learning to unread books

page by page, we unread books  
not backward, per se, that'd be satanic  
but page by page, peel off the words  
and unlearn the plot  
roll up the plot  
and put the characters back in their holes  
what happens to characters when their readers traverse the veil?  
when they leave their flesh behind to rot, or nourish the newborn

leaves?

some say all earthly things, books, music, etc., these memories  
reside in flesh

in the bones, in the muscles, in the blood maybe  
and they seep back into the earth which wifed them  
to which they, arguably, belong

so now they belong to the trees  
and every tree over every graveyard is packed with memories  
the fruit of every tree, apple, pear, quince  
over every white picketed, overgrown graveyard in our fair  
country and overseas

these trees are bursting with memories, songs, books, characters,  
plot points, revelations, turns of phrase, marvelous ironies, second  
glances, evil twins, hidden enemies, dastardly deeds, and righteous  
justice

