

## Invitation (Mary Oliver)

Oh, do you have time  
out of your busy

for the goldfinches  
for a musical battle,  
or the lowest,  
or the most tender?

Their strong, blunt beaks  
not for your sake  
but for sheer delight and gratitude.

"Believe us," they say.  
on this fresh morning

I beg of you,

to attend to this

It could mean something.

It could mean everything.

It could mean...

to linger  
and very important day

that have gathered  
to see who can sing  
or most expressive

drink the air  
and not for mine,

"It is a serious thing  
in the broken world."

do not walk by  
rather ridiculous performance.

You must change your life.

for just a little while

in a field of thistles  
the highest note,  
of mirth,

as they strive melodiously  
not for the sake of winning

just to be alive

without pausing

David Esner (2017)