

Reginald Unterseher

Full Fathom Five

William Shakespeare

from THE TEMPEST, Act 1 scene ii

When our loved ones are gone, our memories are what remain. But while those memories may appear to be frozen in place, they slowly change. This passage from *THE TEMPEST* uses undersea images to explore the process of that change.

While the term "sea-change" usually refers to the sudden and complete changes that happen on the surface, it takes on a different meaning for me when we look to the sea floor. Molecule by molecule, micro-organism by micro-organism, our substance moves out into the surroundings, but yet the image remains. The shape is the same, we see the image in our memory, but it is not the actual thing anymore. This is a slow movement, at some point we can see that the memory has become something entirely different than the reality was, but isn't all experience filtered one way or another? How do we know which one is more true, our perception of now or our memory?

SSAATTBB unaccompanied

Full Fathom Five

William Shakespeare,
from *The Tempest*, Act 1 scene ii

Reginald Unterseher
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♩ = 52-68

with ebb and flow of tempo and dynamics, never in a hurry

pp

SOPRANO

Full fa-thom five thy fa-ther lies; Of his bones are

pp

ALTO

Full fa-thom five thy fa-ther lies; Of his bones are

pp

TENOR

Full fa-thom five thy fa-ther lies; Of his bones are

pp

BASS

Full fa-thom five thy fa-ther lies; Of his bones are

6

ten ten

S.

cor - al made: — Those are pearls that were his eyes: No-thing of him that doth

ten ten

A.

cor - al made: — Those are pearls that were his eyes: No-thing of him that doth

ten ten

T.

cor - al made: — Those are pearls that were his eyes: No-thing of him that doth

ten ten

B.

cor - al made: — Those are pearls that were his eyes: No-thing of him that doth

11

S. fade, No-thing of him that doth fade, But doth suf-fer a

A. fade, No-thing of him that doth fade, But doth suf-fer a

T. fade, No-thing of him that doth fade, But doth suf-fer a

B. fade, No-thing of him that doth fade, But doth suf-fer a

15

S. sea - change But doth suf-fer a sea - change In - to some-thing rich and

A. sea - change But doth suf-fer a sea - change In - to some-thing rich and

T. sea - change But doth suf-fer a sea - change In - to some-thing rich and

B. sea - change But doth suf-fer a sea - change In - to some-thing rich and

19 *somewhat held back*

S. strange. In - to some-thing rich and strange. sea - change

A. *somewhat held back*
strange. In - to some-thing rich and strange. sea - change

T. *somewhat held back*
strange. In - to some-thing rich and strange. sea - change

B. *somewhat held back*
strange. In - to some-thing rich and strange. sea - change

25

S. sea_____ change sea - change

A. sea_____ change sea - change

T. sea_____ change sea - change

B. sea_____ change sea - change

S. sea - change Sea-nymphs hour - ly ring his

A. sea - change Sea-nymphs hour - ly ring his

T. sea - change Sea-nymphs hour - ly ring his

B. sea - change Sea-nymphs hour - ly ring his

T2. knell: Hark, now I hear them._____ Hark, now I hear_____ them.

B. knell:_____ now I hear them._____ now I

S. hear them. Ding - dong, bell._____

A. hear them. Ding - dong, bell._____

T. hear them. Ding - dong, bell._____

T2. _____ Ding - dong, bell._____

B. hear them. Ding - dong, bell._____