

# Song

for Helen Suzman

*Nothing happens until something does.  
Everything remains just as it was  
And all you hear is the distant buzz  
Of nothing happening till something does.*

*A lot of small hands in a monstrous hall  
can make the air vibrate  
and even shake the wall;  
a voice can break a plate  
or glass, and one pale feather tip  
the balance on a sinking ship.*

It's the very same tune that has been sung  
time and again by those  
whose heavy fate has hung  
on the weight that they oppose,  
the weight by which are crushed  
the broken voices of the hushed.

But give certain people a place to stand  
a lever, a fulcrum, a weight,  
however small the hand,  
the object however great,  
it is possible to prove  
that even Earth may be made to move.

*Nothing happens until something does,  
and hands, however small,  
fill the air so the buzz  
of the broken fills the hall  
as levers and fulcrums shift  
and the heart like a weight begins to lift.*

*Nothing happens until something does.  
Everything remains just as it was  
And all you hear is the distant buzz  
Of nothing happening. Then something does.*

**George Szirtes**

## Induction task

Write a 1,000 word response to the following question:

**How does Szirtes presents his ideas about change and revolution in 'Song'?**

- Plan your answer carefully and aim to write an introduction, three paragraphs exploring clear points, and a conclusion.
- Include quotations to support your ideas and develop thoughtful analysis of language and structure.
- Your written expression must be clear and accurate. Proofread your essay slowly and carefully before handing in.
- Bring the essay to the first lesson back in September.

*We are looking for passion and engagement with both craft and ideas. Show us what you've got!*