

# Speech

by Caroline Lu

Mount the stage  
Find the podium  
Grasp it for dear life  
Stop, take it in  
Feel the oxygen around you  
Resurrect your heart  
And begin

Feel the rhythm of the words  
Find the familiar pattern  
Let them ride off your tongue  
Look into a sea of faces  
Notice humanity  
And innocence  
But nothing else

Finally, let go of logic  
And let the words out  
Let them sink into the air  
Let them bounce off the walls  
And let them leave you  
Empty