

Name: _____

Concreteness & Abstraction

Date: _____ Pd.: _____

(Alberta Turner's *To Make a Poem* 32-33)

The following poem by Denise Levertov has had some of its concreteness removed. Try putting it back by inserting one of the boxed words or phrases into each blank space. Ask first which of the choices you can experience through one of your five senses. Also consider the connotations and even multiple denotations for the different choices you have. Make connections!

Wedding-Ring

My wedding-ring lies _____

- useless
- abandoned
- in a basket

as if _____

- at the bottom of a well.
- no longer needed.
- it had never existed.

Nothing will come to _____

- raise it up
- recover it
- fish it back up

and _____

- make it meaningful.
- onto my finger again.
- reestablish the marriage.

It lies

among _____

- keys to abandoned houses,
- other useless objects,
- irrelevant messages,

nails waiting to be needed and hammered
into some wall,
telephone numbers with no name attached,

- discarded
- unused
- idle

_____ paper clips.

It can't be given away
for fear of bringing ill-luck.

It can't be sold
for the marriage was good in its own
time, though that time is gone.

Could some _____

- artificer
- workman
- creator

beat into it bright stones, transform it

into _____

- ordinary jewelry no one could take
- a dazzling circlet no one could take
- a multipurpose ring no one could take

for solemn betrothal or to make promises
living will not let them keep? Change it
into a simple gift I could give in friendship?