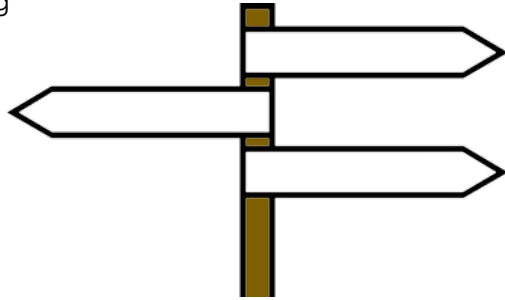


# "YOU'RE AGING WELL", BY DAR WILLIAMS

## A

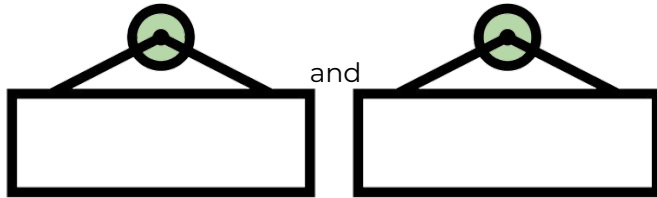
Why is it that as we grow older and stronger  
The road signs point us adrift and make us afraid  
Saying



I don't like the signs that the sign makers made.

So I'm gonna to steal out with my paint and  
brushes,  
I'll change the directions, I'll hit every street  
It's the Tinseltown scandal, the Robin Hood vandal  
She goes out and steals the king's English  
In the morning you wake up and the signs point  
to you, they say:

"I'm so glad that you finally made it here,"  
"You thought nobody cared, but I did, I could tell,"



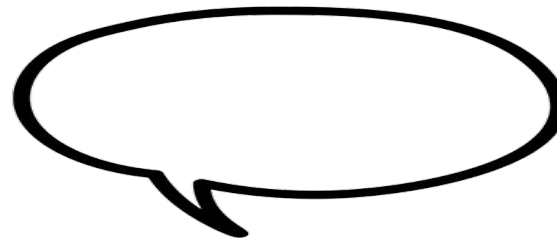
And, "You're aging well."

## B

I know a woman with a collection of sticks  
She could fight back the hundreds of voices she  
heard  
She could poke at the greed, she could fend off  
her need  
And in anger she found she could pound every  
word.  
But one voice got through and caught her up by  
surprise; it said:



No sooner than  
spoken, a spell  
had been broken  
And the voices before her were trumpets and  
tympani  
Violins, basses and woodwinds and cellos, singing:

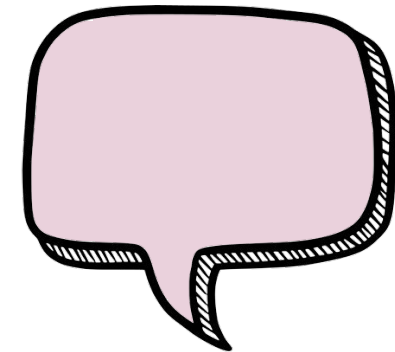


And now you'll dance through the days while the  
orchestra plays  
And, you're aging well."

## C

Now when I was fifteen, I knew it was over  
The road to enchantment was not mine to take  
'Cause lower calf, upper arm should be half  
what they are  
I was breaking the laws that the sign makers  
made.

And all I could eat was the poisonous apple  
And that's not a story I was meant to survive  
I was all out of choices, but the woman of voices  
She turned round the corner with music around  
her,  
She gave me the language that keeps me alive,  
she said:  
"I'm so glad that you finally made it here



Looking back, seeing far, landing right where  
we are  
And oh, you're aging, oh and I am aging,  
Aren't we aging well?"

1. Who is the speaker in the text?
2. What does the speaker dislike about the road signs?
3. What does the speaker hope to achieve by changing the road signs? What message do they convey?
4. What do you think is the purpose of the text?

1. Who is the speaker? How old is this person?
2. What is the significance of the sticks?
3. What does the text suggest the woman will do now?
4. What is the general message?

1. What was the speaker's situation at the age of fifteen?
2. What language did the woman of voices give the speaker?
3. How does the speaker feel about finally making it to where they are now?
4. How does the speaker feel about ageing?