

"The comeback."

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What part of, "N," "O," don't you understand?
Pretty much the nobelium, or the nitrogen and oxygen.
Now yttrium and einsteinium, in their own way, are a little less unstable.
So I'll keep searching the symbolism within the periodic table of elements.
I do so appreciate your investment in my overall development.

Synopsis/introduction:

This poem centers on themes of tension and connection, purposefully blending art, science, and common inter/actions. Multiple readings result in a playful shifting of the speakers and their dis/positions, emphasizing the fluidity of relationships (i.e., chemistry) in our everyday lived experience.

BIO:

S. Purcell Woodard, Ph.D., is the assistant director for both the McNair Program and Early Identification Program at the University of Washington. Both programs serve undergraduates who are low income, underrepresented, and/or first-generation college; both programs prepare these students to pursue and excel in post-baccalaureate education. Steve's poetry has appeared in multiple journals, including *Multicultural Education* and the *Journal of Critical Inquiry into Curriculum and Instruction*, as well as in the recent book, *Becoming multicultural educators: Personal journey toward professional agency*. (E-mail: swoodard@u.washington.edu)

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