

## **Robert Grenier reading from *Sentences* St. Mark's Poetry Place 4/8/1981**

**Note: The times given below correspond to the point in the recording where Grenier reads the particular cards from *Sentences* that are then quoted below. This summary was prepared by Lily Applebaum in March 2009.**

**1:47**

--kept on going to the corner store  
--PUSH PUSH

northern fair gales  
--you cough like  
--light &

and shade  
--LATER BRIGHTER

the more daylight the more snow  
--greater snowflake water  
--furnace reaches toward thermostat setting  
--lilacs

against it  
--branches are then moved by negligible quantity the  
--a

package of matches  
--the roses from across the street  
--likely to  
meet several  
people walking  
in the woods

**3:27**

-no sadly

**4:09**

--TWELVE VOWELS

breakfast

the sky flurries

--PAW

barks from

experience

--BIRD

I wonder if I do

--cookies over Lake Superior

--corroborative mountainous panorama

--JOE

JOE

**5:23**

--standing over backward

--I don't mind cars at night

--to clear nights without rain

--WHO

who wants to loves to does

--mosquitos nigh in old age reflexes chip

--previously leaves were red

**6:57**

--being downstairs

like being awake

--no

absolutely not

not applicable

**7:18**

--I've got to go over and get it

--cuts that nowhere else

that doesn't by themselves

--there's a

note to door

--the wind

knocks off

the pines

--AMY

jumprope

dries your hair

while your hair

is drying

**8:02**

--I'm

so stiff from exercise  
--a port to a green

**8:21**

--because so many people from Minneapolis actually do go west  
--I shouldn't of slept with my shirt on  
--close close  
--seeing abject to decoration satisfied replied  
--roams  
--it's you  
--except the swing bumped by the dog in passing  
--heard jet up by opening window  
--the snow with snow  
--FORM

cherished objects dearly from a room  
--saisd  
--i n t e r o p e r o p t a t a t i v e

**9:48**

--STICKS

rhythm is inside the sound like another

**10:28**

--AMY

won't there might be one  
--LAND

temperature fable

cardtable table  
--I think birds took  
--though moonless  
--BEACH

except in the shade

over there

**11:07**

--they are naturally hostile to getting picked off  
--rain drops the first of many

--laughter

down playing volleyball

--face of creature toward the light that any sound means day  
--SILENT

longing

subject of discussion

--HAPPY TO BE WITH YOU

knew we knew each other

**12:00**

--you ultimately firepower  
--well odd to tick  
--shadow a thing  
--Paw so greasy

**12:23**

--didn't she go to a  
--close  
to  
the  
door  
--late July

--having

swum

--temperature silence

--THE BUS DRIVER

and the black stream

--I hopped past

--heart beats in the azure sky for which it feels

--white white Mt. Washington

--or seldom

--given

how different

the engine

sounds

### **13:26**

--much of anything she doesn't like that at all

--lined up of trees

--CALMEST BRIGHTEST DAYS ON EARTH OUT HERE

I don't remember that we talked about what was it

--that's a sedate car

now early to rise

--ah the basketball

--FRAGILE LENSES

knuckles rough from washing them

and drying them

--yah gee

yah gee

yah gee

yah gee

yah gee

yah gee

yah gee

yah gee

--sure arm today  
--leaf and the ants as latterly  
--dream  
  y belly  
--of life days like  
--time to go to the laundry again soon

### **14:50**

--corresponding desires be they echo or red

  listen to notice sound then speeding go  
--twelve days

  of blue sky  
--the squirrel on a rainy day  
--listening yes let  
--the horse wrestles

  the hoss wrestlers  
--good good  
--ocean is

  groceries  
--hungry on toward supertime

### **15:42**

--fireflies nonsensically outside the window  
--fluid drawn down through bricks & matted

  tone & blood mix dirt with scatter  
--GOOD WORKER SMILES

I think I'm un

unemployable

photograph

next best thing

**16:16**

--running from that

--FLOWERS

for Joanne

sunburn

of the toes and feet

afterwards

showers

--AMY

we sing

them

to them

Sunday night

--can stay apart

**16:45**

--CONCEPTS

they see us

--happy without worry over cars

--south on Monday and sleep over

--thoughtful in extremities

--CHRISTMAS EVE

I sat in the kitchen and talked

--someone than someone

--elms back of

vats

--a bush is moving and the airplane flying past

--looking at boughs

--the thugs

--who are you talking on the telephone to

--SUNLIGHT

snow in the air

dust in the room

--AMY

me

how

fast

I

turned

around

and

went

up

--ALL THE MORE SO IF SHE'S SLEEPING

that's a steady rate or steady place if I'll sleep

--refrigerator so long

--GOOD DOG FACE

GOOD DOG FACE

--crabby

--two trees

--MORE BIRDS

whereas I should if

I were there I would

--trouble with chess is it doesn't make any noise

**18:14**

--AUTUMN

frogs for the first time since autumn

--AMY

the day after tomorrow

in that night is gonna be

**18:46**

--SHE

went to a movie of a musical came

back at a quarter to five

**19:31**

--a dog no barking can

--if passed by airport limousine

--having eaten something up

--Friday home you stayed night and sewed

--YESTERDAY

I saw no one today

--if rain it's raining

--SPRING

at four it would still be dark

and raining  
--steering the wheel  
--AUTOMOBILE

passing in the rain

see its headlights

--thorough  
--actualities materialize  
--the watering of the yard water  
--in the morning after work  
--that's little house too for the day

**20:51**

--FIREFLIES

mostly three

often two

occasionally one

rarely four  
--MILKY

two by two

really  
--silence amounts to the same thing  
--call I'll

dark it

place back

in trees  
--stepping through the water to the rocks  
--sky dries to aught else  
--or the starlight on the porch since when  
--can't have a mosquito  
--clouded  
over  
without  
--difference between St. Paul

-- Maury

+

Betty Fletcher  
--snow likelihood  
--sound receding steady toward shore dome tower

same three back again flying their shadows  
--AUTOMOBILE

Divisiveness  
--POPLARS

facing away  
--brightened equipment bulb  
--cows horns harmonize with cactus bits  
--such a thing should happen at all  
--restless moving to the right  
--fire and water identical sounds  
--gosh gaps  
--tomato

struck by hail  
--walking down Washington Avenue

**23:01**

--PATTERNED

different number of different patterned responses possible

**23:28**

--clouds interested in some adequacy  
--some old guys with scythes

**24:50**

--yawns at solid  
--beautiful tomatoes this morning of mornings  
--A BIRD

who would call

not for me

but for you

in the day

**25:39**

--once those clouds moving toward the horizon  
--maybe the trees invite them if

you don't think about them why should they

**26:50**

--barking because it's landlord  
--SNOW

snow covers the slopes covers the slopes

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snow covers the slopes covers the slopes

snow covers the slopes covers the slopes  
--repetitive bird and black

--searchlight distributes sky light it administers  
--trouble when they seem to go by

--BIRD

one two

three four

five six seven eight nine ten eleven  
--the more fresh beach you wash the cars  
--the sidewalk is for pedestrians  
--obtain from the brook  
--BLACK & WHITE RAIN

clear water grey drops

on windshields in a line

of cars progressing slowly

with windshield wipers wiping  
--SNOW

see through a day to a day

--from running if from nothing else