

The One-Eyed Boy at the Wall

*the wall goes on and on
no chinks no windows no doors
stone neither split nor crumbled
no way in no way out*

*yet a wall has its reasons
usually inside*

*he takes another look around
nothing*

*nothing at least
he knows how to see*

*he has met people
here and there in the world
with mirrors for eyes
barricade smiles
one-way mouths*

*neither barricades nor mirrors here
just stone*

*perhaps a stone that if pushed would open
a secret panel in the wall . . .*

too many stones

*

*a wall has its builders
and they have their reasons*

*which should be
if there is an inside
inside*

*unless of course
hidden outside*

*or the wall
its own reason*

*each side both inside and out
the whole reaching
from an arbitrary here to an arbitrary there*

*containing nothing
keeping nothing out*

*

*could keep him at its side
a good long time
a wall like that*

Thomas Fitzsimmons