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A Writing Lesson

Sally Jarzab

You have, I suppose, dreamt of finding
the bottom of a page,
but you've lost the hand that writes.

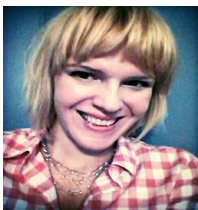
The writer could, of course, not write.
Having nothing to write,
nothing to say,
no law, no grammar,
no knowledge—above all, no knowledge—
you are returned to your innocences, your possibilities,
your freedom.

It is no wonder that
all work becomes impossible.

Writing is a blind alley.
You have to
play in the tombs.

Learn to write with your
eyes closed.
Learn to write with the other hand.
This is what poetic practice means.

Let us now pass on to the lesson of the lesson.
It goes like this:
everything's already written.
I am already text.



Sally Jarzab is pursuing a PhD at the University at Buffalo, studying writing theory and composition studies from a Learning Sciences perspective. She has worked for more than twenty years as a copywriter and copyeditor and has consulted in UB's Center for Excellence in Writing. She has had creative work recently published in *Pupil* and *The Journal of South Texas English Studies*. She can be reached at jarza@buffalo.edu