

Cheryl Pappas

HOMEWORK

Q: What is the end of your life?

A: Is it:

- a) a door closing slowly
- b) a meadow flush with golden buttercups, a rejoicing?

Or is it:

- a) a lost lover standing before you
- b) recalling your first lover in his beat-up car, his smile as he kept turning from the road, to you, the road, to you, and then remembering he no longer exists?

Or is it:

- a) a tower of alphabet blocks tumbling onto the carpet, again and again
- b) after a long night of drinking, seeing a fox on the side of the road and thinking it's not a metaphor?

Or does it:

- a) reveal a great love, after all, for the Sword of Damocles, which has tantalized you through so many ages of your life
- b) simply relieve you of the worry about leaving the bikes out in the rain?

In other words, is it:

- a) meant to help you see the lines of an oak leaf as written by light, as you did the first time
- b) meant to help you see not the leaf, not the lines but all the light that's passing through?