

# Forgotten Language by Shel Silverstien

Once I spoke the language of the flowers, /  
Once I understood each word / the  
caterpillar said, /  
Once I smiled in secret / at the gossip of the  
starlings, /  
And shared a conversation with the housefly  
in my bed. /  
Once /  
I heard and answered all the questions  
of the crickets, /  
And joined the  
crying of each falling dying  
flake of snow, /  
Once I spoke the language of  
the flowers. . . . /  
How did it go?  
How did it go?

- key
- / = pause
  - = emphasis
  - ↗ = inflect upward
  - ↘ = inflect downward
  - └ = end of sentence or vocal unit