

'Mother, Any Distance Greater Than Single Span'

Q. Read the following poem 'Mother any distance greater than single span' and answer the questions based on the poem.

Mother, any distance greater than a single span

requires a second pair of hands.

You come to help me measure windows, pelmets, doors,

the acres of the walls the prairies of the floors.

You at the zero end me with the spool of tape, recording

length reporting metres, centimeters back to base then leaving

up the stairs, the line still feeding out, unreeling

years between us. Anchor. Kite.

I space-walk through the empty bedrooms, climb

the ladder to the loft, to breaking point, where something

has to give;

two floors below your fingertips still

pinch the last one-hundredth of an inch I reach

towards a hatch that opens on an endless sky

to fall or to fly.

Simon Armitage

[illegible][illegible]