



These discussion questions were developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [C. Dale Young](#) and [Emilia Phillips](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Discussion Questions:

- What are the various threads of narrative that Emilia Phillips weaves together in “Reading Ovid at the Plastic Surgeon’s”? How does the speaker’s medical narrative fit in with the narrative from Ovid?
- Read “In the Waiting Room” by Elizabeth Bishop, the poem that supplies the epigraph for Emilia Phillips’ poem, “Reading Ovid at the Plastic Surgeon’s” and compare how these poems handle their subjects?
- The speaker of “Supine Body in Full-Length Mirror, Hotel Room, Upper West Side” focuses throughout the poem on “narrative” and “story.” What effect does this have on the poem? In what ways is this a narrative poem? In what ways is it not?
- How do the various sections of “Bertillon: Three Measurements” correspond to their headings? What changes, formal and otherwise, occur between these sections?
- Read Emilia Phillips on her interest in “bewilderment” in her Lightbox interview. With her thoughts in mind, trace the image of the wine bowl in “Bertillon: Three Measurements.” How does the speaker “get lost” in the wilderness of her chosen image?
- Discuss various ways the body is represented in this selection of Emilia Phillips’s poems. What is the relationship between representations of bodies—in language, in image, and in thought—and description of the tangible, lived experience of bodies?
- After reading “Saul Bass Redesigns the First Man,” take a look at the [Saul Bass Poster Archive online](#). What relationships do you see between how Phillips uses language in her poem and the visuals of these posters? How do they imagine the body differently, the same?
- In her interview, Emilia Phillips writes about how she often uses objects to spur on a creative “bewilderment,” to examine her knowing and unknowing. How does the telephone booth function as this kind of object in the poem “Dream of the Phone Booth”? Does the phone booth help project this poem into a space that is surprising, mesmerizing, or bewildering?