

A Little Black Boat



The Fog Warning by Winslow Homer, 1885

by [Michael Shindler](#) (February 2022)

A little black boat at sea
In the grey-red current
Without any passengers
Tossed its bow to the wind
As if it were a key
To a bordered extent
Of mystery—messengers
between heaven and earth, twinned.

But the sea answers:
Its length is a lock
Over which prancers
Go from dock to dock.

Yet the little black boat

Kept its bow to the wind
As if it were a key
Till it couldn't float.
And the sea grinned
With grey-red glee.

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Michael Shindler is a writer living in Washington, DC. His work has appeared in publications including *The American Conservative*, *The American Spectator*, *National Review Online*, *New English Review*, *University Bookman*, and *Providence*. Follow him on Twitter [@MichaelShindler](#).

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