

# 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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