

Alicia Ostriker

APRIL IN PRINCETON

Cherry blossoms are starting to bloom
all along Prospect and I am very old
yet their pink and white loveliness pleases me

as I bicycle along this street
now that I am retired
pleasure is permitted to me

I have less
interfering with my gaze now
what I see I see clearly

and with less grievance and anger than before
and less desire: it is not that I have conquered these passions
they have worn themselves out

if I smile admiring some muscular young men
play basketball on a concrete court
it is because of their beauty

since I have learned to be a fool for beauty