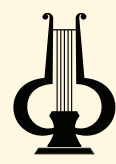


# A Map of the World

Ted Kooser b. 1939

One of the ancient maps of the world  
is heart-shaped, carefully drawn  
and once washed with bright colors,  
though the colors have faded  
as you might expect feelings to fade  
from a fragile old heart, the brown map  
of a life. But feeling is indelible,  
and longing infinite, a starburst compass  
pointing in all the directions  
two lovers might go, a fresh breeze  
swelling their sails, the future uncharted,  
still far from the edge  
where the sea pours into the stars.



POETRY  
SOCIETY OF  
AMERICA

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