

Home, by Warsan Shire,

*No one leaves home unless
Home is the mouth of a shark.
You only run for the border
when you see the whole city
running as well.*

*Your neighbors running faster
Than you, the boy you went to school with
Who kissed you dizzy behind
The old tin factory is
Holding a gun bigger than his body,
You only leave home
When home won't let you stay.*

*No one leave home unless home
Chased you, fired under feet,
Hot blood in your belly.*

*Its not something you ever thought about
Doing, and so when you did –
You carried the anthem under your breath
Waiting until the airport toilet
To tear up the passport and swallow
Each mouthful of paper making it clear that
You would not be going back.*

*You have to understand,
No one puts their children in a boat
Unless the water is safer than the land.*

*Who would choose to spend days
And nights in the stomach of a truck
Unless the miles travelled
Meant something more than the journey.*