

Spring 2010

Bridges

Ismail S. Talib

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/jostes>

Recommended Citation

Talib, I. S. (2010). Bridges. *Jostes: The Journal of South Texas English Studies*, 1(2), 1.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Journal of South Texas English Studies* by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. For more information, please contact justin.white@utrgv.edu, william.flores01@utrgv.edu.

By Ismail S. Talib

Bridges

Bridges do not bridge distance,
Only what's near,
Only proximates can be bridged.

A bridge may mock the river's resolve,
But no bridge can eradicate
The permanent river-made margins.

Building a bridge destroys the ferryman's livelihood.
Bridges may be escape-routes for refugees,
Yet burning bridges may bring the end of war.

Physical bridges are more passable
Than bridges of the mind: those that neither
Connect actual roads nor cross real rivers.

Bridges cannot connect the past.
The past is like a distorted mirror
With weird reflections that cannot be reached.

There is no certainty that bridges
Can lessen prejudice,
Nor do they always allay entrenchments.

If there are no crossings to be made,
What are bridges for?

Copyright of Journal of South Texas English Studies is the property of Journal of South Texas English Studies and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.