

Senior Division, Short Fiction

Michael Finn, St. Bernard's- Jacques Fontaine

**The Great Transparency (an excerpt)**

. . . even the neatest definition of the Great Transparency will be of little concern to most ordinary persons. Now that the appearance of bodily solidity has returned, people have begun to concentrate on regaining their footing as visible beings in the material world. They are learning to navigate the neglected terrain of forgotten social rituals, and to resume normal relations with family, neighbours, and friends. Some sociologists have even begun to compare the transition from transparency to visibility to the evangelical Christian experience of being “born again.”

Returning to what we used to think of as normality will require time. It is said, for instance, that many people are reluctant to re-hang mirrors in their homes, out of a fear that, after having reflected nothing during the entirety of the Great Transparency, their mirrors might now be able to reflect *only* nothing.