

The Farmer

This poem is, I think, all about perseverance. What is perseverance ? Perseverance is commitment, hard work, patience, endurance. Perseverance is being able to bear difficulties calmly and without complaint. Perseverance is trying again and again.



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**Each day I go into the fields
to see what is growing,
find what remains to be done.**

**It is always the same: nothing
is growing, everything needs to be done.**

**Plough, harrow, disc, water, pray
till the bones ache and my hands rub
blood-raw with honest labour -
all that grows is the slow
intransigent intensity of need.**

**I have sown my seed on soil
guaranteed by poverty to fail.
But I don't complain - except
to passers-by who ask me why
I work such barren earth.**

**They would not understand me
if I stooped to lift a rock
and hold it like a child, or laughed,
and told them it is their poverty
I labour to relieve. For them
I complain. A farmer of dreams
knows how to pretend. A farmer of dreams
knows what it means to be patient.**

Each day I go into the fields.

American poet, William Daniel Ehrhart, served in Vietnam and has become known as one of the Vietnam War Poets.

William Daniel Ehrhart