**“Hatteras Calling”  
by Conrad Aiken**

Southeast, and storm, and every weathervane  
shivers and moans upon its dripping in,  
ragged on chimneys the cloud whips, the rain  
howls at the flues and windows to get in,

the golden rooster claps his golden wings  
and from the Baptist Chapel shrieks on more,  
the golden arrow into the southeast sings  
and hears on the roof the Atlantic Ocean roar.

Waves among wires, sea scudding over poles,  
down every alley the magnificence of rain,  
dead gutters live once more, the deep manholes  
hollow in triumph a passage to the main.

Umbrellas, and in the Gardens one old man  
hurries away along a dancing path,  
listens to music on a watering-can  
observes among the tulips the sudden wrath,

pale willows thrashing to the needled lake,  
and dinghies filled with water; while the sky  
smashes the lilacs, swoops to shake and break,  
till shattered branches shriek and railings cry.

Speak, Hatteras, your language of the sea:  
scour with kelp and spindrift the stale street:  
that man in terror may learn once more to be  
child of that hour when rock and ocean meet.