



Reading Horizons: A Journal of Literacy and Language Arts

Volume 5
Issue 2 January 1965

Article 6

1-1-1965

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Recommended Citation

Reigle, L. B. (1965). The Returning. *Reading Horizons: A Journal of Literacy and Language Arts*, 5 (2). Retrieved from https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/reading_horizons/vol5/iss2/6

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THE RETURNING

Lucille B. Reigle

My home is inhabited by strangers.

I walk in the after-light

Of living laughter.

These strangers in child-like need

Reach out to me and I

Numbly reach back but my

Loss cannot be assuaged.

Walls echo my unuttered cries

As I turn and silently walk away.