



# A Short Story of Falling -Alice Oswald

Alice Oswald is a British poet from Reading, Berkshire. This poem is from her 2016 aptly titled book, *Falling Awake*. The poem is about water, how it falls into a flower, then into a stream and this repeats itself. Oswald then brings the importance of water into one's own self.

[Click to access a version of the poem sang by the National Youth Girl's Choir of Great Britain.](#)

It is the story of the falling rain  
to turn into a leaf and fall again

it is the secret of a summer shower  
to steal the light and hide it in a flower

and every flower a tiny tributary  
that from the ground flows green and momentary

is one of water's wishes and this tale  
hangs in a seed-head smaller than my thumbnail

if only I a passerby could pass  
as clear as water through a plume of grass

to find the sunlight hidden at the tip  
turning to seed a kind of lifting rain drip

then I might know like water how to balance  
the weight of hope against the light of patience

water which is so raw so earthy-strong  
and lurks in cast-iron tanks and leaks along

drawn under gravity towards my tongue  
to cool and fill the pipe-work of this song

which is the story of the falling rain  
that rises to the light and falls again