



# In the Land of Giants -George Szirtes

George Szirtes is a British poet who regularly translates poetry from the Hungarian language into English. Originally from Hungary, he has lived in the United Kingdom for most of his life after coming to the country as a refugee at the age of eight. This poem is from his second book of poetry of the same title and focuses on the alarming process of growing taller and growing up.

Once everything was big  
and you were small,  
but year after year your shadow  
crept up the wall  
and you grew tall.

Quite frightening really  
to think of that small shadow  
disappearing,  
to hear that small voice passing out of  
hearing.

That's the trouble with growing:  
you'd like to know where you are going,  
but there's no knowing.