

BORGES WAS IN THE MORNING PAPERS

Smiling, blind but happy  
he didn't care  
he's in his eighties, has his Nobel Prize  
he's seen it all  
they wanted him to read some poems  
but he just wanted to see the Pacific Ocean.

He struck a deal with  
the college professors and administrators  
he would read from his books  
of poetry and fiction if afterwards  
they'd take him down to the ocean.  
First, however, he had to sign autographs  
answer questions about literature  
and his life, but that  
was alright with him  
as long as he eventually  
got to see the ocean. They  
put ballpoint pens in his hand  
scraps of paper and books  
opened to the title page  
took his picture, he smiling out  
at no one in particular, happy  
thinking about how the air would smell  
down on the beach.