

The Hens

The night was coming very fast;
It reached the gate as I ran past.

The pigeons had gone to the tower of the church
And all the hens were on their perch.

Up in the barn, and I thought I heard
A piece of a little purring word.

I stopped inside, waiting and staying,
To try and hear what the hens were saying.

They were asking something, that was plain,
Asking it over and over again.

One of them moved and turned around,
Her feathers made a ruffled sound,

A ruffled sound like a bushful of birds,
And she said her little asking words.

She pushed her head close in her wing,
But nothing answered anything.

Elizabeth Madox Roberts

Assignment 7

"The Hens" by Elizabeth Madox Roberts (1881-1941)

Discussion:

- 1. What time of day is the author writing about? How can you tell?**
- 2. What sound do you think the hens are making?**
- 3. What does the author mean when she says that they were asking something over and over again?**

Writing:

Describe the morning when the hens awake.

