

# Vehicle

Dick Allen

Something for transport. A device  
pushed or pulled or driven,  
launched, perhaps. Paddled,  
rowed across a river, flown  
as out of JFK. Something that holds together  
while being used: a train  
racing a car across Kansas,  
a bicycle, a motorboat, even  
the Voyager Spaceship. Also,  
the medium through which a thing  
finds its way home: a novel,  
the tenor of a metaphor,  
a play, a role, a piece of music  
used to display  
whatever's shown off in it. . . . The oil  
for mixing paint pigments.  
The substance of no therapeutic value  
conveying an active medicine: a poet  
looking from a casement window,  
the priest or rabbi holding a dying hand.