

## Don Thompson

### Even If

Even if you turn off the news  
And sit quietly on the porch,  
No peace. More troubles  
Than anyone wants to think about  
Persist between the birdbath  
And the oak with splotched leaves—  
Insect crises, still unresolved,  
Doves that never got over it,  
The mow, blow and go of sorrow:  
Grass losing every inch it gains.

**Don Thompson** was born and raised in Bakersfield, California, and has lived in the southern San Joaquin Valley for most of his life. Now retired from teaching in the prison system, he lives with his wife, Chris, on her family's cotton farm in the house that has been home to four generations. Thompson has been publishing poetry since the early sixties. Publications in this century: *Been There, Done That* (2002), *Turning Sixty* (2006), *Where We Live* and *Sittin' on Grace Slick's Stoop* (2009). *Back Roads* won the 2008 Sunken Garden Poetry Contest. *Everything Barren Will Be Blessed* was released in 2012. A collection of prose poems, *Keeping an Eye on the Stones*, is forthcoming along with a book length narrative poem, *Local Color*. Alan Jalon's *LA Times* profile, "Planted in the San Joaquin," remains available online.