



*Morning Rose*  
Wilmington, North Carolina  
Photo by Dan Hardison

## How Perfectly

*By Mary Oliver*

How perfectly  
and neatly  
opens the pink rose

this bright morning,  
the sun warm  
on my shoulders,

its heat  
on the opening petals.  
Possibly

it is the smallest,  
the least important event  
at this moment

in the whole world.  
Yet I stand there,  
utterly happy.