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An Answer

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An Answer

Hearing me read the poem aloud at dinner,
my 22-month-old laughs at two words
he thinks are odd together: *oven bird*.
All day, I'd pondered the question of Frost's singer—

what to make of a diminished thing—
donning a Tyvek suit and respirator,
scraping old lead paint; the sweaty labor,
the verse: both made me think of climate change.

My son soon knows the poem by memory,
but what's it mean to him who eats a pea
and quotes it, singing in his toddler drawl?
And comes that other fall we name the faaaaall.

On my lap, at bedtime, he swaps lines with me.
That's one more room now filled with poetry.