

Patience

By Kay Ryan

**Patience is
wider than one
once envisioned,
with ribbons
of rivers
and distant
ranges and
tasks undertaken
and finished
with modest
relish by
natives in their
native dress.
Who would
have guessed
it possible
that waiting
is sustainable—
a place with
its own harvests.
Or that in
time's fullness
the diamonds
of patience
couldn't be
distinguished
from the genuine
in brilliance
or hardness.**

Kay Ryan is a California poet who served as the 16th U.S. Poet Laureate from 2008-2010 and was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2011.