

Translation

Standing, iron in hand,
at your antique ironing board,
I mouth the sounds of
German words,
Schloss for *castle*,
Stern for *star*,
consider how, in English,
headlights
conjures an animal
with glowing eyes, while
Scheinwerfer is
the *Light Thrower*,
a hero like David,
hurling his radiance
against Goliath's dark.
I have your ironing board,
your German schoolbooks,
your recipes on yellowed cards.
I have a handful of your ashes
in a petaled box. The Gulf Stream
carries your wind-tossed dust
far from shore. Beloved
truant, you are not here.

Meryl Stratford