

## Non-Traditional Wedding Readings

**Adrienne Rich**

*21 Love Poems*

Whenever in this city, screens flicker  
with pornography, with science-fiction vampires,  
victimized hirelings bending to the lash,  
we also have to walk...if simply as we walk  
through the rainsoaked garbage, the tabloid cruelties  
of our own neighborhoods.

We need to grasp our lives inseparable  
from those rancid dreams, that blurt of metal, those disgraces,  
and the red begonia perilously flashing  
from a tenement sill six stories high,  
or the long-legged young girls playing ball  
in the junior high school playground.  
No one has imagined us. We want to live like trees,  
sycamores blazing through the sulfuric air,  
dappled with scars, still exuberantly budding,  
our animal passion rooted in the city.

*I do not claim to be the original author of this script. I am sharing it like this to  
make it easier for anyone to use.*