

There is No Frigate like a Book

There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away,
Nor any coursers like a page
Of prancing poetry –

This traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of toll;
How frugal is the chariot
That bears a human soul!
--Emily Dickinson

Vocabulary:

frigate: a fast and heavily armed naval vessel of the late 18th and early 19th centuries

courser: a swift and strong horse, frequently used during the Middle Ages as a warhorse

prance: to spring from the hind legs, to move by springing, like a horse

traverse: the act of passing through, or a crossing

oppress: to burden with cruel or unjust impositions or restraints

toll: a payment or fee charged for some right or privilege, as for passage along a road or over a bridge

frugal: not wasteful, economical, inexpensive

chariot: a type of carriage (as in horse and carriage)

bear: to hold up or support

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