



Once, I turned out to be something I didn't realize I was

Using the two poems below as examples, write a similar short poem that begins with the word "Once" and ends with the speaker of the poem admitting or confessing or maybe suddenly realizing that he or she or it has become an inanimate object like a flower or a stone wall (and maybe always was). Rhyming is allowed but not encouraged. Innocence is required. Beauty is always appreciated. Wonder is useful. And a hint of science is fun, but stay this side of Nerdlandia.*

Winter Poem

once a snowflake fell
on my brow and i loved
it so much and i kissed
it and it was happy and called its cousins
and brothers and a web
of snow engulfed me then
i reached to love them all
and i squeezed them and they became
a spring rain and i stood perfectly
still and was a flower

—Nikki Giovanni

This All Once Was Field

Once, heaved by frost,
I lost my earthly balance
and toppled my highest stones
to the forest floor.
But it was winter,
and the years had turned
the cows into trees,
and still I was an old stone wall
that ran between them.

—Taylor Mali

* Once, I breathed some oxygen, which has an electron configuration of $1s^2 2s^2 2p^4$ of course.