

Peter Fulton

As the Crow Flies

Over the side yard ornamental fence,
they rest and speak about their children,
economy, terrorism, pressing world events.
“We’ve given plenty,” one neighbor complains.
“We can’t afford to fight aids in Africa,
malaria, ebola, drug-resistant TB strain.”

Pausing for a moment, he adds,
“We have to deal with our own problems;
what’s threatening us here.”

Recalling that the shortest distance
between two continents is a plane,
the other responds, “You may be right,
but have you ever wondered just how desirous
you are to the West Nile virus?”

Author’s note: Some diseases prefer the boat.