

Considering WAITING

- Please define the term “waiting.”
- Is there a history of waiting?
- Who waits in that history?
- Is there more than one history of waiting? Is there more than one group waiting?
- What are others waiting for?
- Is waiting part of what makes us human?
- Ideally, should we never have to wait?
- Is waiting a virtue or a mistake, a reward or a punishment?
- Are there different kinds of waiting?
- How does an individual wait? How does a group wait?
- Is it different for men? For women?
- How does waiting feel to you? To others you have observed?
- What are you waiting for? Short-term? Long-term?
- What is the price of waiting? Is something forgotten, neglected, sacrificed?
- Should you get what you are waiting for? Do you deserve it?
- Are there a right and a wrong waiting?
- Is there some other form of waiting yet undiscovered?
- Should you (and others) stop waiting? What would that look like?
- Everything gives us a body. What kind of body does waiting give you?
- What is the physical language of waiting?
- Is there a language of waiting unique to Utah? Show us.

Waiting, as we experience it at its most complex, is a human construct, a sign of the human condition. Nature is pure being. According to Temple Grandin, dogs do not manage concepts, they think in pictures. There is no “waiting” in nature, except as connected to survival: waiting for prey, for a mate, for chicks to hatch. In human terms, waiting is more than a gap, more than in-betweenness. It is often the busy secret space between desire and achievement, the dramatic conceptual backdrop against which human life happens. Humans are framed by waiting and wait for intangibles: love, success, salvation. We are the ones who project and introduce this more complex waiting into nature. We undo the natural order by domesticating through waiting: we teach animals to wait for food, for our command, for our return. *The tamed animal is the one who waits.* Children are trained in much the same way, to wait for a meal, to wait to go to the bathroom, to wait for a parent to come home from work, to wait for a toy, to wait until their name is called.

Await (verb)

to (eagerly) wait for (an event)

- to wait for a circumstance that is in store for an individual or group
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