In this poem, short-life's gardener vies with death's pruning. Word chains embedded in the poem have been highlighted by capitalization. The underlying structure of the poem is diagrammed above: each 57-letter vine segment (with spaces and punctuation removed) folds back upon its predecessor in boustrophedonic form. Each alphabetized set of 19 lower-case letters sandwiched in the fold has been anagrammed into those letters of the poem located above and below it.