



Winter 2022

Katrina Hays

In Response to Ms. Ryan

*What's the use
of something
as unstable
and diffuse as hope—*

—Kay Ryan

Of course, it offers no guarantee, no promise we will get a future bettered or gain fulfillment of the longed-for thus-and-so. In fact, sure, it could be seen as pure

childishness: a wish on a winter's night for loot; an obdurate belief the card will not report this term's blighted efforts; and, yes, it can lead to the petard

and the exploding of one's ambitions, as well as revealing a reality more dour than delightful; conditions bound to lead to despair, I agree.

But—

without it the seed in the dark would remain unbroken, and never lunge for rain.