

**All night the roots work  
to disengage themselves from the cracks         
in the veranda floor.  
The leaves strain toward the glass     
small twigs stiff with exertion  
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof  
like newly discharged patients  
half-dazed, moving  
to the clinic doors.**

Disengage: remove  
Strain: pressure  
Twigs: small stem  
Exertion: effort  
Cramped: restricted  
Boughs: branch  
Shuffling: mixing  
Discharged: send out  
Dazed: stun

The poet explains the struggle done by the plants to reach the forest. She says that the roots worked for the whole night to separate themselves from the veranda floor. The leaves tried hard to reach the window of glass so that they could go outside. Even the small stems of the trees put much of their effort in order to set themselves free. The big branches were also trying a lot to go out from the roof of the room. We can say that women are desperate for a change and their effort is compared to that made by a patient who has been released from the hospital and he tries to move out in a hurry although he is confused. Maybe because they are half conscious and are under the influence of some medication, they are unsteady but in a hurry to leave the clinic.

Literary Devices:

Enjambment: continuation of sentence to the next line (the leaves strain……. Half dazed)

Simile: trees compared to patients (like newly discharged patients)

personification: twigs and boughs have been personified.