ope

1. Noun _____

2. Verb Base Form _____

3. Verb Base Form _____

4. Verb Base Form _____

ope

It's the ___Noun___ you ___Verb Base Form___, the water you swim in. It was the first word you can remember forming, crawling out your mother's birth canal, apologizing. Ope. It was the first word you uttered to a human being earlier today, yourself, staring into the mirror, bemused. It was the second thing you said to another human being today, squeezing past a sea of them on the Red Line -- you barely even hear yourself say it. It's heard by no one. A businessman you nearly groped grunts a half-acknowledgement, stepping to the left. He didn't hear what you said, but he understood.

It's the noise you make at a funeral, the one you make when you flirt. To this day, it's the only sound you make when you seed. It's in the look your late grandma gave you when talking about her kids: one of them a drug addict, the other a car salesman, the other your dad. It exists between the silences in the elevator, it thrives in ___Verb Base Form___ ___Verb Base Form___. Not quite an apology, not quite a defense, not really much of a statement or conscious thought of anything at all. More a reaction, more an unintended consequence, a shameful admission of where you're from. Ope. An empty signifier, it