

Great Talkers of History

I read that Coleridge's
brilliant talk boiled forth
whether his audience
was hundreds or a few. Robert Frost
was said to have been
a daunting monologist
and Christopher Hitchens' friends
describe him wielding his learning
into the night at intimate gatherings.
You can hear him on YouTube,
that thrusting, elegant voice.

But when I think of being talked at,
I think of being bored.
The guy pontificating at dinner
could be Socrates
and I'd be dying for the evening to end.
It's just never been a use of time or air
I'd place at the top
of my list of things
that make me glad to be alive,
except beside her in a car
as her voice flares
and ends jaggedly
and does or does not resume.