

## **Blue Passage**

If a sentence or a phrase causes friction, it is because someone's words are taut like oiled leather. A blue-green stain fades like a bruise while land speed records are shattered at Bonneville. A rocking boat makes a boy cry because he hasn't yet learned to speak the language of water. Bluer and bluer. Colder and faster, the language of water washes over him.

## **Happy Birthday**

A birthday wish sharp as the swish of a swinging ax. A flood uncoils suddenly like a snake. I light candle after candle and she blows them gently out. Tell the wind that hot syllables ooze like sweat from every pore. Tell the neighbors I am three hot words on a birthday girl's tongue. Don't read this. Don't tread on me.