

Appalachian Elegy (section 1)

By bell hooks

hear them cry
the long dead
the long gone
speak to us
5 from beyond the grave
guide us
that we may learn
all the ways
to hold tender this land
10 hard clay direct
rock upon rock
charred earth
in time
strong green growth
15 will rise here
trees back to life
native flowers
pushing the fragrance of hope
the promise of resurrection