

## Tall Cotton

Daddy got some work today  
And Mama got some flowers  
Picked fresh and partially wrapped in waxed paper

We paid the landlord a little rent  
And bought a big sack of rice  
There'll be chicken for dinner tonight  
And cornbread  
And collard greens  
And maybe fresh baked sugar cookies for desert

Daddy got some work today  
Might be a couple of weeks if things go right  
If things go right, might be more  
We in *tall cotton*...if things go right

Mama got some flowers today  
To replace the ones we left last week  
Freshly picked and partially wrapped in waxed paper  
Framed in gray stone  
Surrounded by blue  
Warmed with August

Mama got some flowers today  
And  
Daddy got some work

—Steven Hooker

## New Shares

Distance is a strange  
milk, and the

difference  
between new thought and your  
own. Who can tell it?  
Who can tell you,

even?  
The loss that trails itself with your  
every word, is  
a wisp...then the wind,  
with your short breath behind  
it...turns,

constantly, into  
the block where most are afraid.  
constantly, the tangle  
falls

from the hand, opening  
there...where, I  
fall by  
reaching

down. In  
part,

farther, than ever before.

—Stan Buriss

## Drunks for 13 Cents

In the doorway, I complain to Bob  
"Citation, citation  
after citation..."

Watch the trees  
rhymes w/leaves;  
the eco-minded beware!  
Mutt and Jeff in blue  
patrol with their citation books  
they eye our plastic bag  
luggage.

We create our own mythologies  
layers upon layers  
like clothes to create, warmth  
against the cold. That's the way  
it is in the west.

Get up and smell the socks,  
I had to change this line,  
I couldn't afford the coffee  
habit.

—Earle Thompson