

backward its the  
incredible shrink  
ing its some  
thing growing turn  
ing to stone the  
dirt on that  
leaf pressed in  
to fossil pressed  
hard and thin  
leaves in a book  
nobody opens  
she's so thin  
when she shaves  
her arm pits the  
hair's too deep  
in to reach  
like her anger

#### CANDLES

the snuffing out of a  
miner's candle is  
taken as something  
bad if your  
candle goes out  
you go out too  
candles don't burn  
in bad air if  
it goes out three  
times something's  
wrong at home  
maybe a man's at  
home fooling with  
yr woman not a  
few men have been  
known to leave  
their work to  
check this out

#### HOLLY

from the holly  
tree to heal  
sick protect  
a house from  
lightning hang  
it in the pantry

hang it outside  
put it in the  
stable and the  
cattle will  
get big

some branches are  
men the others  
those smooth  
ones are  
women

whatever kind is  
brought in tells  
who'll rule for  
the year if the

holly is brought  
in in fair  
weather it will  
be the wife in  
a fierce storm  
the husband

#### STOCKINGS

in an old town  
a man was bank  
rupt had to sell  
his daughter to  
keep out of debt  
a kind old man  
threw gold in  
thru the chimney  
it fell into a  
stocking so now  
children hang  
up a stocking  
find a tangerine  
in the toe  
the gold