

that block of wood all over into four handfults of sawdust let them saw it into four handfults of sawdust and let them take it into their hands let them take it into their hands and sniff of it and sniff of it and snuff it let them take this block this block of wood and feel of it and taste it and smell it and live it and talk about it and talk and talk about it let them all talk about this block of wood let them talk about this block of wood and into this block of wood and over and under this block of wood and then let them all explain to it explain to this wood block why words precede affections why words go before affections or in other words why they haven't got the criticism in front of the poem why they haven't got the criticism in front of the poem and why in hell a block of wood in that children's corner should go sit at a table should go sit at a table and exchange words exchange words with them exchange words.

THE MATCH GAME

On the bar,
14 pennies
in three rows,
of 3, 4, and 7.
Take any number
from any one row.
The object is
to make your opponent
take the last penny.

Tom wants to win
the worst way.
And he is.
He is keeping track
of odds and evens.

The French, in The
Last Year at Marienbad,
put the game into
evening dress and
used five rows. It
would be no trouble

to keep it covered up
forever in five rows.

My father called it
The Match Game because
he played it, a match
in his teeth, with matches
in the kitchens of members
of his congregation.
I think he must have learned it
from the horse trader who
was trying to get right with God
the week he died.

The world is everything
that is the case. One night
after playing with guests
on a straight-backed chair
in our living room, my father
explained it to me. Don't
try to figure it out. You
can't. The most educated
people are the easiest to
fool. There are only two
winning combinations --
2-2 and 1-1-1 --
and it's just a matter
of working into them.
He showed me.

My father used to try to hide
the game. He wouldn't play too
long, he'd play with several
people at a time, he'd chatter, he'd
occasionally play wrong and risk
losing. I tried to give the game away.
Nobody watched what I did.
Jeff Nulle is the only person
I ever knew who figured it out,
and he did it alone
on the New York subway.

TAKE COTTON CANDY

Take heartfuls of cotton candy
taste of it smell it
play with it take it lightly
in your hands fluff with it
fluff with it and jab it
jab it into molds