

ASSESSMENT

Big Mama Porter knows
people
she shifted her weight on
swollen feet
looked down Persimmon Road
and saw John Healy walking
with his cane
A faint smile rippled across
her banana colored face
and she murmured approvingly
That old man
John Healy
is a pure peaceable fellow
he don't want nothing that
don't belong to him
just enough ground to walk
on
just enough air to breathe

OLD TIMES OF 1950

The girls walked by
two and two
giggling with the only thing
they had
the gift of life

and a package of Wrigley's
spearmint chewing gum
given by one trailing boy