

SPRING TRAINING

Muddy brown fields
just starting to green
the earth in april
our minds in june
we want to play baseball
so we mud it out.
Right away
we're the world champion
going all the way
the first practice is always like this.
And i like coaching third
bent over squinting
blinking clapping
talking it up
my hands start moving
the ear lobe
belt buckle
shoulder
the brim of my hat
my wrist
the belt again
wipe my hand across my chest
clap three times
scratch my shoulder
giving the signs so good
so smooth
even my hitter
don't know what the hell is going on.

DISCOVERING GREAT WRITERS

"i get the sobers
every so often," he says,
"you know, i can
see the sun and not hurt.
i can write my name,
speak english,
and live in peace with my neighbors
every time i catch the sobers.
don't get 'em much
any more."
then he gets up
goes back inside
and the interview is over.