

THE INTERPRETER

Newly moved to Big Muddy
pretty girl
big for twelve

and I didn't know that Molly
couldn't read the newspapers
on our sharecrop walls

until she pointed at Gary Cooper
and asked me
what do they say about him
ain't he good looking

REALITY

Silver foil
from chewing gum
made stars for our
 Christmas tree
we hung paperchains on it
and strings of popcorn

Quint would work
a kernel loose
each time he passed
and pinch a lumpy parcel
marked with his name

This one here, he said
feels like longjohn underwear
it sure enuff
ain't no toy