

Survey of Common Source Minerals in the Bottom Tip of Ohio's Heart

1. a) Black ribbon uncle's cash-coal Diamond future¹
b) Elder fern, aflame Frozen creek²

2. a) Bare limestone rods-mauve To touch, to ponder, to gaze
b) Slip in the shale vein-blue Sleep demon, sleep
c) Limestone cave of cocks-hollow Stalactite tears³

3. a) Crack in the shale-leak, come through Rinse off the dirt (Show me)
b) Roadblock-granite (piece of who) Break his bones for free

4. a) Muddy rush-clay does not stay Take his bones to the creek⁴
b) Vesuvius basin-limestone, grey Deeper than bones can see⁵

5. a) Sulphur Lake-algae glow Nairs you on full moons
b) Black Lick-gravel, invisible turns The sycamores never tell
c) McKenzie Point-feldspar, beer bottle shards Drop your rod, your children
and wives

6. a) Step & a Half-heart stone Hurts the same, knows all their
names⁶
b) Frank Frank-red brick, thrown Strikes, breaks, asks no names
(Go west, young man)
(Be safe)
c) Men without names-boulders, sediment Data incomplete (Insufficient)

¹ Own the hilltop / Blow it off / Dynamite & air rights / Granpappy Calhoun gives it to you / Can you see it through?
² Pray the Bradshaws never chamber / bullets to chance the ice / crossing where the barges / rut and die.
³ seen from my knees / caught by / wide eyes / licked to live / cleansed / I rise
⁴ The flow forgets us. / No sheriff finds us.
⁵ sunken cemetery / bookmarks of former lovers / fingertips following their faded names
⁶ Johnson, Cox / Jenkins, Calhoun / Smith, Bradshaw / black book, left hook / everyone knows who knew

7. a) Flood-sediment, bones greyWho was no longer
b) Calhoun, M-limestone, white A curse, a cause⁷, dead cats⁸
c) Smooth pebbles-limestone, quartzHeld, rubbed,⁹ wished

⁷ Pamphlets and newsletters / plain white envelopes / no return address

⁸ Heads clipped to the clothesline by their ears / Heads filled with irrational demographic fears

⁹ Some nights, / touch / is enough.