

Gaining Darkness

Anita Tanner

Going down to the cellar
a child awakens to tendrils
of winter vegetables
that elongate like white worms.
Multiple hairs grizzle carrots.
Potatoes shrivel like aged faces.

Diseased by measles,
a child's eyes long for such a place
to burrow deep—
recovery in darkness.

Going down where things grow
revises the mind—
light, the dichotomy:

Half illumed,
the moon thins outside.
The glint of recognition
fades from Father's eyes,
down deep, being rooted
in the earth.