



## LUCILLE CLIFTON

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1936-2010

### surely i am able to write poems

surely i am able to write poems  
celebrating grass and how the blue  
in the sky can flow green or red  
and the waters lean against the  
5 chesapeake shore like a familiar,  
poems about nature and landscape  
surely but whenever i begin  
“the trees wave their knotted branches  
and . . .” why  
10 is there under that poem always  
an other poem?



2004

## BILLIE HOLIDAY & ABEL MEEROPOL

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1915-1959 & 1903-1986

### Strange Fruit

Southern trees bear a strange fruit,  
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root,  
Black body swinging in the Southern breeze,  
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees.

5 Pastoral scene of the gallant South,  
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth,  
Scent of magnolias sweet and fresh,  
And the sudden smell of burning flesh!

Here is a fruit for the crows to pluck,  
10 For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck,



For the sun to rot, for a tree to drop,  
Here is a strange and bitter crop.

1937/1939



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