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## Mountain Lake With Stumps

Harry Humes

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## **MOUNTAIN LAKE WITH STUMPS**

There's more to it than driving a road  
and seeing the stumps like dark pins in a map,  
and then the way I stop and walk out  
to the wooden boat rotting on its chain.  
More to it than the horseshoe sunk in clay  
and the way suddenly I want to hear something  
over the water, to have its great fish  
swim close to shore, the way I want to be out there  
by the stumps with the light on me like bark,  
and turning one over and finding a message  
about hard weather or love,  
or what happened one soft evening in a back cove,  
a man and a boy fishing,  
and then a woman on shore waving them in.  
And later by a dark window the smell of wild chives,  
a single splash out on the water.