

ROBERT E. WOOD

GRAY TUESDAY

Foul is fair in drought,  
but habit is tenacious.  
The body sees the world  
through its own pains.

For this season  
we need those idiot  
protagonists of folktales,  
those contrary creatures  
for whom laziness brings wealth  
and feeble-mindedness great power.

In the magic woods  
abandoned children thrive  
and witches fall  
for all their childish tricks.  
A suitor chooses among sisters  
each lovelier than the others.

There lies a world of fortune  
writ in fire—  
tree, pond, dwarf, frog, pebble and bean  
radiant as the sun  
even in the rain.