

**(state your name) in america**

1.

this office is a 30-story smoked glass  
aquarium filled with ink  
papers float across each desk  
toward 5 o'clock  
thick waves roll over  
the sleeping creatures  
that live here in  
8-hour increments  
and when the day's work is shredded  
when the tanks on our backs  
are almost empty  
we decompress in the breakroom  
drink coffee and swim home

2.

at night  
i dream of colors  
painting my eyes  
brown i am the soil  
purple i am an orchid  
green i am a redwood  
grey i am a tornado  
yellow i am icarus  
orange i am a number-two pencil  
white another day

3.

at the bus stop yesterday  
a guy came up and asked  
me for a quarter  
i asked him what  
he wanted it for  
he said he was going  
to spin it on the sidewalk  
then stand by and see  
how long it took  
for someone to pick it up  
he said the last one  
stayed there for about  
fifteen minutes