

Requiem

de water coming out o' his skin
he leapin' aroun'

he passin' time
with crabs
eyes lookin' back at him
water touchin' sand

makin' furrows all
about his skin
clothes wet
T-shirt wringing

mouth wiped clean
o' salt water
teeth curled in —
he watchin' and waitin'
he beginnin' with a song
about how little

he understands life

he livin' out his time
makin' peace with water
only earth left behind
his one-pound fist-body
sinkin' down

like a lost ship

CYRIL DABYDEEN