Under the Yam Tree

outside Sierra Leone
under a palm tree
three hungry war

orphans who hadn’t
eaten for two days
went out into trees

looking for something.
Their parents killed
in a rebel attack of

Hinnah Malen they
couldn’t find any
thing, were coming

home hungry when they
saw the yam, dug it
up with their hands,

saw, shining and
sparkling right in
their fingers, a 100
carat diamond—flawless, worth at least
500,000 dollars though

it is not clear how
much money the children
who returned to the

village last week for
the first time since
their parents murder

would get from the
sale of the stone

LYN LIFSHIN