

# *Let us bring it out of the air*

Let us talk about hope as a heavy structure  
The hull of a battleship or a forge or a planet  
Let us bring it out of the air  
to the dry July ground

Fireworks go off for hours after sunset  
cannon fire in a war against what?  
Let us talk about hope in the past tense  
The life we've known is gone

The safety of touch gone  
Our promised summer is lost to fever  
while collective denial  
strikes at the most vulnerable

Let us talk about hope as a teacher  
in an ignorant nation  
preparing her own preventable death  
Let us feel the weight of that

Outside the earth's cool shadow  
there are no visible stars  
Future space travelers will see only  
infinite flat black for months

As a firework  
we like to think that hope is the explosion  
is the light  
& color in warm air

I'm here to say that hope is the sulfur  
it is the fuse

— *Lynne Ellis*