

Renee Rizzo

you must teach your children
that the ground beneath their feet
is the ashes of your grandfathers.
so that they will respect the land,
tell your children that the earth
is rich with the lives of our kin.
Teach your children what we
have taught our children,
that the earth is our mother.
Whatever befalls the earth
befalls the sons of the earth,
if men spit upon the ground,
they spit upon themselves