



## *Those Winter Sundays*

Sundays too my father got up early  
and put his clothes on in the blueback cold,  
then with cracked hands that ached  
from labour in the weekday weather made  
banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.  
I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.  
When the rooms were warm, he'd call,  
and slowly I would rise and dress,  
fearing the chronic angers of that house,  
Speaking indifferently to him,  
who had driven out the cold  
and polished my good shoes as well.  
What did I know, what did I know  
of love's austere and lonely offices?

*Robert Hayden (1913-1980)*