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Ecotone

E. Smith Sleigh

to the team looking for poets' gravesites--

you'll find them in their books

or in the sand dunes

pioneer zone upper beach

in the sea oats

where the ghost crab crawls along

in the dunes especially along the ecotone

live oak cabbage palm myrtle oak yaupon

sea grape cat's claw the racerunner

hognose snake coachwhip

the bard the dead poet us up on tiptoes

in the place where the sea oats grow

we quit the beach and climbed the wall

we walked backwards to the precipice

the edge was an uncomfortable place

where a word or a thing either does

or does not fall

our words run or fly fail plunge soar
then crash and are buried with us

where the midnight moonlight intertwines
in June