

NNAMDI OGUIKE

Come Closer, Little Dark Evening

(To an African Child)

Come closer, little dark evening
Young flower from ancestral fields
In the black petals of love

Live blood that trickled from Africa's loins
Soft and tender day from my father's nights
Come, your eyes are anthers!

Come for a song
Come for a poem
Come for a lifting up

In the sunset of your eyes I have seen
Mothers in the ovaries of their homes
Singing lullabies.