

While I was writing a book

my son, the elder, went crazy
my son, the younger, went sad
nixon resigned
the saudis embargoed
rhodesia somethinged
and my dishwasher failed

my sister, the elder, haemorrhaged
my brother didn't speak to me
my ex grieved and overdosed
hemlines fell and rose
texans defeated the e.r.a
and my oil gaskets leaked

my friend, the newest, grew tumors
my neighbour to the right was shot
cincinatti censured sin
and my dracaena plant rotted

I was busy

Laurel Richardson 1996: 204

Richardson, L (1996) *Fields of play: constructing an academic life*. New Brunswick, N.J: Rutgers Univ.Press.