

Words

“what do you fear most?”
group leader’s simple question
brought varied answers:

drowning, death by fire,
other dreadful agonies
—her prompt answer: “words”

hurt by being said,
and being unsaid, causing
lifetime injury

yet, caring words heal
traumas to the spirit by
listening with the heart

words are sharp blades that
can cut our soul’s tender flesh
—handle them with care



Thanks to Susan’s baby sister Shawna for inspiring this poem (photo 1955).

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