

A member of the Carolina African American Writers' Collective, **Gideon Young** resides in Efland, North Carolina. His BA in Literature is from the University of Connecticut, and his recent leadership roles in YMCA outreach programs for underprivileged and minority youth have directly influenced his current pursuit of a Master's in Elementary Education at North Carolina State University. Gideon has been published in the *Long River Review*.

Bare feet

Autumn brown hair
tousled and toweled
frames her face.

She sashays
across slippery naked tile
between cooling bubbles,
candlelit bedroom.

Bayberry wicks flicker
in soft wax hollows.
Wind whispers rustle
intricate lace curtains.

Her slender toes trace
intimate ridges
carved into our dark
chestnut headboard.