

Woodwork

*This old axe handle long ago
Was made by granddad
From a hickory tree, straight and strong.
The sap flowed through its veins,
Head crowned with leaves,
And seeds dropped close enough
to grow another tree.*

*Made angular and precise,
The old desk built from scraps by dad,
Hand-finished, mahogany-stained,
French polished and slides waxed,
Was sold to strangers.
The wood was mixed, perhaps some oak,
Or maple, or ash, and hickory,
And its seeds dropped close enough
to grow another tree.*

*This new table is built from scraps
Both old and new. The tilting pad
Holds a heavy tome. Now the new
Is engineered, with many chips
Combined of birch or pine or fir,
Perhaps some hickory.
This board had a crown of leaves,
The sap is glue, and there the seeds
Dropped close enough
to grow another tree.*

By Sam Seabright