

## Song for a Passbook Torch

Bring back  
Nelson Mandela.

Bring him back home to

Soweto,

and when his  
memory comes,

do not seat it  
in a sleigh.

Do not roll it in  
the Macy's Day

Parade.

Bring back  
Nelson Man  
de la — of the

Freedom  
Charter gym,

un-halved,  
un-smiling,

un-Santafied.

Bring back  
Nelson, dancing

in corners of  
defiance, "Tata

Madiba"  
stenciled

PASSBOOK TORCH

on his trunks.  
I want to see him

walking hand in  
hand with full fighter

recollections.

You will find  
no reindeer

in that camp,  
or yuletide carols

there – except for  
those that say

forgiveness  
wrapped his knuckles,

and no chestnuts ever  
roasted

on an open  
passbook

flame.