

**On Finding the Ant Plant Dischidia in an Abandoned Plantation Forest
in Singapore**

**From Heaven it fell, the day of the trip
As my students trudged through a jungle of their imagination
And I wished there were a lesson in a tropical storm**

**Believe it or not
I had found an article about it the year before
In the New York Times
And had saved it**

**Surely, today's seventh graders can struggle through newspaper
As well as they can trudge through forest
But who would believe it?
Certainly not the boy who thought flour came from a box
That this ant plant sent roots into its own leaves**

That's not what we learn in school

Leaves are up and roots are down

**What kind of teacher is this forest?
What stories are being told there?**

**Maybe we should be afraid
And tear it down so we won't
Have ants in our houses
Or live like ants inside of leaves
Or be ants**