

When I Get Old

and repeat the same
story
starting before
the beginning
begins. Please
do not let me get
to the ending. Just
stop me
in the middle
then tell me to tell you
the story of
my first love
affairs with
books.
Let me talk
about all the books
I could not keep
and let me weep
or speak slowly
until you or I fall
asleep.

■ Vilma Blenman