reasons for smoking

i.
to preoccupy the mouth
in the presence of men

ii.
a burning
tip is a
weapon

iii.
to still the anxiety
in my chest

iv.
a pallet
for my lips to stain

v.
a way to be discreet
in kissing my fingers

vi.
an
excuse to
leave

vii.
my own bones
burning

watch their
smoke pour from
my mouth