

Lessons

Megan Baule

There is never a moral.
There is only choice, a rationalization

that must be taught to children.
Lightning begins in the ground.

The frost comes six months after the first lightning strike of spring.
A small brown band and wide black bands on the caterpillar

foretells a long, hard winter. Cattle huddle as far against the wind as possible.
A wound can be made to stop bleeding by laying an axe under the bed.

A rooster crowing in the night warns of a hasty visitor.
The rabbit is always an omen of misfortune.

Sundogs bring a cold snap.
A wet moon, when water could pour from the moon,

warns of precipitation. A dry moon, when the moon is tipped back
and no water could pour out, means dry weather or drought.

Never begin a new project on a Friday.
A curly-haired baby will be full of life and good-natured.

The straight-haired baby will be cunning.
Burning strands of one's hair will tell his future.

If the strands burn bright, it is an omen of long life.
If a woman cuts the nails of her right hand with her left,

she will have the upper hand in marriage.
A woman who cannot wash dishes without splashing her clothing

will have a drunk for a husband.
The thicker the walls on the muskrat den the longer the winter.

A ring of light around the moon foretells a storm.
The number of stars inside the ring tells how many days to a storm's arrival.