

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

Red

by Olivia Sprinkel

Koko is a gorilla.
She's learnt sign language.

Koko's trainer shows her
a piece of white cloth.

"Koko, what colour is this?"

"Red."

"Koko, what colour is this?"

"Red."

A third time.
A last chance if Koko is going
to get her supper that evening.

"Koko, what colour is this?"

And Koko reaches out.
She picks up a tiny piece of red
lint from the cloth.

She laughs. She signs.
"Red. Red, red, red!"

The longer
and more carefully

we look at a funny story,
the sadder it becomes.

Maybe
we need some new stories.
About who we are
in relation to the world.