

FIFTEEN  
Betwixt and Between

Athletics

The mist of macho,  
50 yard Butterfly splashing,  
Supple, rippling bodies,  
Nylon smooth,  
Besting the best,  
Winning ribboned applause  
With no future.

No prize calf for the future farmer  
In this wet race to acclaim.  
Deep breathing on the starting block,  
No anesthesiology practice in sight..  
Water dripping on the finish tiles,  
No bath and towel shop foreseen.

Prizes with empty destinations  
Lining the dresser top,  
Victories in limbo.

School

A cloud of irrelevancies,  
Case and conjugation,  
Studies in Spanish adjectives,  
Proper enunciation – please.  
Cultivating suburban Hispanics?

Angles and areas,  
Debating over proofs of altitude,  
Proper formula - please.  
SAT's?

Napoleonic wars  
Rumbling into democracies,  
Filmstrips on the Huron Tribe,  
Proper dates - please.  
Achievement Tests?

Principals,

Watchmen of the hall pass,  
Lurking for lavatory smokers.

Counselors

With terminal cases of credit calculation.

Teachers

Dunning with gum chewing detentions.  
Quarterly grades in varieties of mental paralysis,  
Mine – mind?

Women

A fog of untouchables,  
Centerfolds in Playboy,  
Posters of breast poses and wet lips,  
Older brothers' X-rated videos.

A life of explicit sideline gazing  
Reaching for a first kiss.  
Wet dream wondering,  
Waiting for wheels and turbo engines  
To propel longing into legitimacy.

Surely it can't happen  
Without Lacoste shirts,  
Without a slouched shuffle,  
Without untied high tops.

Trout Season

Seeking the limit on opening day,  
Two rainbows displayed off the left hip,  
Caught, Dangling,  
To take home,  
For dinner.

No ribbons,  
No filmstrips,  
No posters.  
Just wet feet at fifteen.

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