1990
Rachel
I see him: I give him a big: Hello: I want him to know how much I
really want to like him: Rachel says he is embarrassed: Rachel
sneers: "You talk too loud, Dad: You are embarassing:" I
ask Rachel what: Going with a boy: Means: Going on
dates?: No: Getting married?: No: Kissing?: She rolls
up her eyes like Betty Boop: Now it is the ninth
day: There are two purple flowers in the sun on the
porch: I pick up the flowers: I pour water into a
vase: I put the vase on the kitchen table: I sleeve up the cellophane from the bottom of
the stems: I put the stems in the vase:
My daughter Rachel is in Sacramento
with her entire school protesting lack
of state funding for education:
When she comes home
tonight I would like to
tell her there is no sound
of monkeys crying in the
trees: But I have to be careful: I don't think that Rachel
has ever read any very old Chinese poetry: I am afraid that
she might start yelling at me: That
What I might call: Elegant ancient
chinese crying
monkey allusions: Are racist:
Yes: To a fifth
grade girl in
love: Her
dear old
dad is a
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1 Homage in caret: ⋀: To the elegant Persian: Stripe Brush Whip
Point: Rose Bud: Minaret Top: Nipple: Form: In Clear: Pure:
Color Sensation: Of the fabulous: ARSHILE GORKY: 1905-1948