

Sensation

thin pajamas against
freshly bathed skin

sand on bare feet

a skirt worn alone
when a breeze blows

the breath taken after
a bite of hot soup

the rebound of a
swing going so high
it feels as if it might
double over

a pant of anticipation

the fall of a tear

aloe gel on a sunburn

cool fruit salad on
a summer day

the first big stretch
after a long car ride

the soft ache of wanting

-Laura Partridge

Small Courages

Small courages,
gathered like raindrops
in the basin of my fears,
erode my anguish
nourish my mind
restore my will
to crack the dam
that holds me back

-Ralph Brandt

The Truth Is

The truth is,
I don't know or prefer,
any of these same-suited, smile-talking
people
seated everynight, showing slightly
modified hairstyles,
and saying "the truth is".

Helen Straight