

## ON EDUCATION

He always wanted to explain things.  
But no-one cared.  
So he drew.  
Sometimes he would draw  
And it wasn't anything.  
He wanted to carve it in stone  
Or write it in the sky.  
He would lie out on the grass  
And look up in the sky.  
And it would be only him and the sky  
And the things inside of him  
That needed saying.  
And it was after that  
He drew the picture.  
He kept it under his pillow  
And would let no-one see it.  
And he would look at it every night  
And think about it.  
And when it was dark,  
And his eyes were closed,  
He could still see it.  
And it was all of him.  
And he loved it.  
When he started school  
He brought it with him.  
Not to show anyone, but  
Just to have it with him like a friend.  
It was funny about school.  
He sat in a square brown desk.  
Like all the other square brown desks  
And he thought it should be red.  
And his room was a square brown room  
Like all the other rooms.  
And it was tight and close and stiff.  
He hated to hold the pencil and chalk,  
With his arm stiff  
And his feet flat on the floor,  
Stiff,  
With the teacher watching  
And watching.

The teacher came to him  
And spoke to him.  
She told him to wear a tie  
Like all the other boys.  
He said he didn't like them.  
And she said it didn't matter.  
After that he drew.  
And he drew all yellow  
And it was the way he felt  
About morning.  
And it was beautiful.  
The teacher came and smiled at him.  
"What's this?" "Why don't you  
Draw something like Ken's drawing?  
Isn't that beautiful?"  
After that his mother bought him a tie.  
And he always drew airplanes  
And rocket ships like everyone else.  
And he threw the old picture away.  
And when he lay alone  
Looking at the sky,  
It was big and blue and  
All of everything,  
But he wasn't anymore.  
He was square inside  
And brown.  
And his hands were stiff.  
And he was like everyone else.  
And the things inside of him  
That needed saying  
Didn't need it anymore.  
It had stopped pushing.  
It was crushed.  
Stiff.  
Like everything else.

Author unknown.