

## Shoofly Pie

Imagine a cafeteria kitchen  
filled with children and clouds of flour,  
boys waving rolling pins like clubs,  
girls stirring up ingredients in big bowls.  
The story in our fifth grade reader  
made us long to try the frontier recipe:  
molasses, butter and soda  
under crumbs of flour, butter and sugar.  
It was winter and I was disappointed  
there would be no flies to chase away.

But the boys hovered near Betty,  
whose precocious nipples showed  
under her blouse. We were more disturbed  
than aroused by this mark of difference.  
Barry had seen the 3-D movie,  
"The Creature from the Black Lagoon"  
and claimed that the monster,  
with its King Kong lineage,  
had picked the heroine "up by the titties,"  
something I doubted. In the oven,  
the molasses bubbled up in dark, syrupy veins  
through the crumbs. As for Betty,  
the rumour next week was that our teacher  
had called her mother, the difference vanished,  
at least to the naked eye:  
we all took off our 3-D glasses.

BERT ALMON