



4-1989

Poem: "Where I'm Coming From"

Daniel Sharkovitz

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/tl-nirp-journal>



Part of the [Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Sharkovitz, Daniel (1989) "Poem: "Where I'm Coming From"," *Teaching and Learning: The Journal of Natural Inquiry & Reflective Practice*: Vol. 3: Iss. 3, Article 8.

Available at: <https://commons.und.edu/tl-nirp-journal/vol3/iss3/8>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Teaching and Learning: The Journal of Natural Inquiry & Reflective Practice by an authorized editor of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact und.common@library.und.edu.

Where I'm Coming From

*I am in first grade.
Ricky balances at the very top
of the jungle gym*

*holding tight with his
two hands to the cold bar under legs too
small to tuck for support*

*into the rungs below.
He hovers in a position from which
he cannot undo*

*himself. He holds on
wide-eyed with reddening cheeks. His mouth
opens--the kid who*

*came to school a month
late, who wandered around the room asking
the rest of us to*

*draw him a door, Ricky
the retard after we heard Miss Brown
whispering it to*

*the teacher in the
next room. Miss Brown, Miss Brown Ricky, but she
talks with the principal*

*close to his ear and
watches the real kids play kickball, Ricky's
stuck at the top of*

*the jungle gym Miss
Brown Miss Brown. I imagined our faces
so finally clear*

*to him from the top
of the bar as he relaxed back into
invisible arms,*

*eyes scrunched shut, for his
slow fatal somersault into the sky.*

--Daniel Sharkovitz