

# My Philosophy of Childhood

by Rachel Alrich

I always wanted to grow *up*.  
Always wanted to sit in the back of the bus,  
or by the window in the car.  
I wanted to hear what my parents said  
under their breath.  
"We'll tell you when you're older."  
Why not now?  
I hated walking in line,  
unlike the older kids.  
I couldn't wait till I could  
stay up past 8.

But now I want to grow *down*.  
I want to tie that red blanket  
over my shoulders,  
jump from the table, and fly.  
I want climb in the car  
and draw swirls on the window.  
I want to ignore the news.  
Draw with chalk on the driveway  
and hope it won't rain.  
I want to have time  
to smell the traces of spring  
in the February air.

But my philosophy is:  
Childhood  
Is not an age.  
Childhood  
Is a mindset.