

1977

A Girl

Sue Rubin
Interlochen Arts Academy

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Sue Rubin
Grade 12
Interlochen Arts Academy
L. M. Sharp

READING TO RELAX

I settle in a nest of shag,
open Notes to Myself, and read:
"It is beyond my control."
Outside Reina whines,
pounces in the door,
letting it slap its metal frame.

On page 10, I skim the first line:
"Let's pretend I'm God."
Her eyes chasing a rabbit through window,
Reina growls, claws glass.

I glance at "what makes me think,"
and think only of the dog.
I should feed her.
Staring at scrambled black print,
I count and scan pages.

A GIRL

After taking a shower
I stare in the mirror,
admiring my flat stomach
pulled tight at my waist.

Skin lotioned soft,
I button a silk blouse
advertised in Vogue and roll
nylons to muslin skirt
zipped at the small of my back.

In class I slant
my mouth closed in a smile
and open the text, careful
not to hide my breasts.