



1999

Standing Firm

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Recommended Citation

Uchman, Sarah (1999) "Standing Firm," *Calliope*: Vol. 1999 : Iss. 1 , Article 7.
Available at: <http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/calliope/vol1999/iss1/7>

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Standing Firm

The maple sapling stood
against the wind.
Its small trunk swaying,
orange leaves rustling.
Children fly by ready to
save the world.
At a nearby table they
crank out
two-minute masterpieces.
Scribbled fish and rabbits
win first place ribbons.

Now I lay in the grass.
Simple clouds become
elaborate pictures.
Why after 18 years
can I wish for those
crayon drawings, laughter,
and firetrucks.

They can save the whole town
in one afternoon.
Hair blowing in the wind
unimportant.

Farther away, the tallest trees
Barely sway at all.
The children begin to laugh
while the young tree
fights against the wind.

Sarah Uchman