

Teacher

Striplings ride desks  
Under the view of the teacher  
On imperceptible skates

For 80 minutes  
Sliding to this corner  
And to that  
For 80 minutes  
They adolesce  
Writing on paper  
Heads hunched over desks  
Small smiles to the side  
Puerile comments  
Are you done yet, he says

For 80 minutes  
The teacher channels attention  
Corrals energy  
Transports information from one place  
To others  
On his feet  
Drawing responses from his anatomy  
For 80 minutes  
Focused like a mountain climber

For 80 minutes  
The teacher bobs and weaves  
An answer here, direction there  
Writing with his belly on the board  
Attends to adolescents,  
Assorted minds  
Haphazard histories  
Some are exiles  
Self appointed  
Some are stars not yet discovered  
The teacher  
For 80 minutes  
Every period  
Orchestrates these melodies  
Always learning

Robert J. Garmston  
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