Childhood • Com

Child
I fear for you.

You have
love
language
mind
friends
joy.

We have
school
school
school.

We make you
competitive
consumers
computer friendly
compliant
bored
with history
democracy
doubtful of your worth.

We do this in fear
of your curiosity and joy:
where grass is a rug for trees to dance upon (Susan, age 7).

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WHITE HOUSE SEeks
TO CURB PILLS USED
TO CALM THE YOUNG

We are blind
to your strengths:
If you were the graceful birch
we would criticize
your immobility.

We reduce you
to a knowledge count
with state tests
tests void of numbers
for creativity
for initiative
for citizenship.

RISKS WOULD BE OUTLINED

National Study Is Planned to
Look at Effect of Psychiatric Drugs on Preschoolers

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We see you as imperfect
raw
to be machined
in factory schools:
Hours are leaves of life
and I am their gardener (S.M., age 11).

We give you the idols of Market Economics.
We fear democracy.
We fear the poor
may
inherit the earth.

Child
I care for
You.

Do
not
bring
guns to
school.

Our
World
Is
Mad
Enough.

by Dick Gibboned
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