

Caroline Woidat

Rite of Passage

her new bike
is a Schwinn
five-speed
not red
but raspberry

she swings
a leg
and mounts
with ease
the frame
built
for a girl
without
that bar
in the way

the seat
is still high
her feet
just reach
the pedals

she stretches
with each push
and races
down the street
moving
farther away

Caroline Woidat

from the crowd
in the driveway
watching
her go

she worries
her chain
will slip
the first time
she tries
to shift
and listens
as the gears
rattle