



3. At Buzzard's Bay, he ties a kite
to her flipflop, let's go. It sails up
and over the dune, skims across water.
They drag the boat over rocks
into the shallows, jump in, laughing,
rowing until the kite drops.
They pull it from the waves,
and she puts her flipflop
back on, so happy to have a brother.

2. Her brother comes home from
camp,
dark scab on his hip.
A boomerang
came back
at him. Pearl asks
"Isn't that the point?"

1. On her 3rd birthday, Mommy
gives her the plush stuffed Dog.
Pearl swoons. So when her brother
gives her the crude little creature
he made from paper and a clothes pin,
she thinks it is a joke, throws it
out on the front porch. In the rain.
All their eyes say she did wrong.
No offense to her brother,
but don't they get how Dog
is all she ever needed or wanted?

Pearl's Big Brother

Bees

Clouds well up during dinner.
Pearl fidgets with her fork, can't be
contained, slams the screen door
behind her, runs uphill to the school,
up the grand wide stairs, waving arms
at the first splatters of rain
with their fruited smell and release.
Calm again, and wet, she returns
home. *You and the bees*
says Daddy, when she's back
at the table. *Crazy before*
a storm. He's right,
and she's glad he knows.

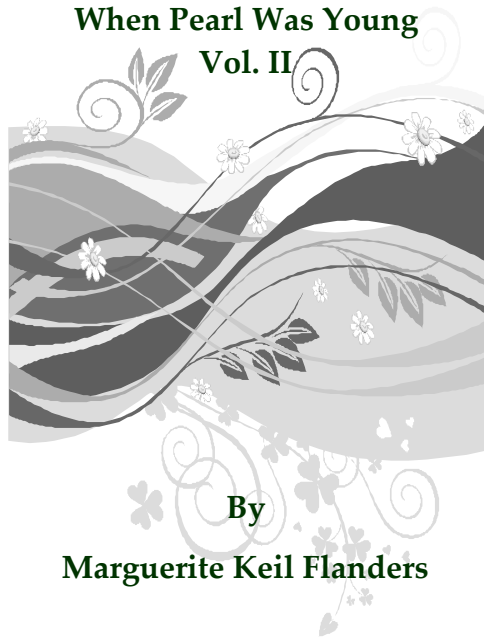
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Origami Poetry Project

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First Dream

Pearl watches as Mommy's car
smashes into a chainlinked fence
and she breaks her neck.
Even Mommy can't convince her
it was just a dream.

To Pearl, *not yet*
is the same as *already*.

It's like her life started
in that dream, and will speed on
until it comes to pass.

And she knows it will,
knows there is no way
to keep Mommy safe.