**Hanging Fire**

BY [AUDRE LORDE](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/audre-lorde)

I am fourteen

and my skin has betrayed me

the boy I cannot live without

still sucks his thumb

in secret

how come my knees are

always so ashy

what if I die

before morning

and momma's in the bedroom

with the door closed.

I have to learn how to dance

in time for the next party

my room is too small for me

suppose I die before graduation

they will sing sad melodies

but finally

tell the truth about me

There is nothing I want to do

and too much

that has to be done

and momma's in the bedroom

with the door closed.

Nobody even stops to think

about my side of it

I should have been on Math Team

my marks were better than his

why do I have to be

the one

wearing braces

I have nothing to wear tomorrow

will I live long enough

to grow up

and momma's in the bedroom

with the door closed.

**Young**

BY ANNE SEXTON

A thousand doors ago  
when I was a lonely kid  
in a big house with four  
garages and it was summer  
as long as I could remember,  
I lay on the lawn at night,  
clover wrinkling over me,  
the wise stars bedding over me,  
my mother's window a funnel  
of yellow heat running out,  
my father's window, half shut,  
an eye where sleepers pass,  
and the boards of the house  
were smooth and white as wax  
and probably a million leaves  
sailed on their strange stalks  
as the crickets ticked together  
and I, in my brand new body,  
which was not a woman's yet,  
told the stars my questions  
and thought God could really see  
the heat and the painted light,  
elbows, knees, dreams, goodnight.