

Tea Time At Blum's

Fluffy pandas
On top of cases stuffed with
Goosey gumdrops
Chewey caramels
Miniature marshmallows
Stare blankly
Into mirrors over the soda fountain.

The old ladies
With tense jowls
Are worried about
Ordering soft sandwiches
So their teeth won't fall out.

A tight lipped girl
Perches on an iron chair
In a red dress
Zipped safely at the neck.

The little boy
With a face
His parents scrub the life off every night
Mooches his ice-cream
And sucks sweet chocolate
Off the long cool spoon.

A bald headed man
Gazes around lost
Looking for
That one soft whore
(He had to pay)
Who lolled
And rolled
Her tongue around it once.

An old woman
Has a flower in her hair
Three cheers
She took the dare
And switched from turkey to cottage cheese.

-- Margaret Garrison

San Francisco, Calif.