

RITUAL

Riley and Betty Lou get along well
which surprised both families
considering their differences
which are considerable
Their greatest bond is pride in cars
they wash and scrub
and spray and wipe and wax
their separate Volkswagens in the driveway
each Saturday
like observing the Sabbath

ROYALTY

Bobby Hicks told the other
kids on Persimmon Road
I am gonna be your king
and he held court
in a royal cloak of purple
an old bathrobe
tied with a silver giftwrap
string
Tapped his friends with a
fairy wand
from the school play
turned Nettie Luke into a
princess
so beautiful
her buck teeth didn't show