

# Lights and Shadows

---

Volume 18 *Lights and Shadows* Volume 18

Article 50

---

1974

## When I was a Child

Deborah Conner

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.una.edu/lightsandshadows>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Conner, D. (1974). When I was a Child. *Lights and Shadows*, 18 (1). Retrieved from <https://ir.una.edu/lightsandshadows/vol18/iss1/50>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by UNA Scholarly Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Lights and Shadows* by an authorized editor of UNA Scholarly Repository. For more information, please contact [jpate1@una.edu](mailto:jpate1@una.edu).

## WHEN I WAS A CHILD

When I was a child,  
I stood in a corner  
and felt the earth turn.  
It made me dizzy.  
But my grandmother told me  
I couldn't feel the earth turn.

I no longer stand and feel.

When I was a child,  
I told my cousin  
That I liked to sit alone in the  
quiet...  
and think how tiny I was  
Compared to the sky...  
And who I was.  
But she said she knew who  
she was.  
She was Belinda.

I no longer look inside myself  
and question.

When I was a child,  
I asked my grandfather if

I could yell loud enough  
That my parents, who were  
far away,  
Could hear me.  
But he said no one could yell  
that loud.

I no longer call out. Who can  
hear?

When I was a child,  
I knew that if I walked far  
enough,  
I could touch the sky.  
But someone told me  
No one can touch the sky...

I no longer reach up or  
dream.

God, can these things be  
true?

—Deborah Conner