

**menarche**

i. pronounced

like  
anarchy

Cotton, Dry

P.U.  
cubicle  
unkempt lock

unruly lip  
a monarch  
migration

popular  
it, if-*mot*  
in the

lite rare  
arts

ii. I pump

back and forth on the neighbour kid's red  
swingset

the crescent  
cradles me  
cups me  
holds me taught

in s tinct  
“ur  
on the rag”  
he says

not  
pushing me  
only  
flinging

bits of dog  
shit into my lap  
face

I try to spit  
on him I spit  
on my lap in  
stead

iii. 11-year-old  
loosens her belt

says “We are  
just as able

as men”

iv. He was the only boy I could stand

v. up to  
now he had never paid me any  
head except as the understanding  
friend but now that his girlfriend danced with some other  
loser he wanted to grind his thing

against me we all  
slept in the same bed that—  
night he spooned her

vi. *STRAWBERRY*  
*backaches*  
*baked-in-the-sand*

*bonks ooze*  
*with thickredfoldedhalfwaysjam*

(It was messy.)  
(I had to explain to my parents.)

v. men's  
truth  
psychs

le  
man  
in la moon;

o, pause!

one small step  
for manners

vi. ...*then, she transformed into a B-U-T-full BUTTERFLY!*