

'O' Level. Home Economics Exam

Grim invigilators creak
along the sheen of the gym.
Stale linseed oil reeks
mingling with dust in sunbeams.

Breasts, new rounded,
droop to the fever
of writing, and heads bend
in long obedient ranks.

Papers rustle like fires.
But one girl, bowing low,
hair caressing the paper,
her spine showing through

the summer blouse, bare
red-painted toes
curled round the desk leg,
suddenly arches back,

breasts thrust out, eyes
closed, and in shafts
of sunlight she shakes
cascades of long brown hair.

David Kerr