

### At the Shopping Center

A park where children used to play is gone,  
and in its place now stands a shopping mall,  
a modern blend of concrete, glass, and steel,  
another benefit that progress brings.

Where once the boys could practice half-court shots  
and watch the ball clang off the netless rim,  
is now a store that sells the best in backboards  
and basketballs of highest quality.

Where once the girls, with just a rope or stone,  
could jump or hop and play into the night,  
is now a room where quarters fill machines

~~that give about a minute for each game.~~ *that gladly tell you when your time is up.*

Where once the lovers sat on wooden benches  
and spoke no words that kisses couldn't say,  
is now a place where on display are cards  
with poems of love, a hundred to a box.

*This is better*

So business booms and people come and go  
to shop for what they do or do not need,  
but few recall a park plowed underground,  
where all the best commodities were free.