

teeter totter\*

there's a heavy kid  
at the bottom of  
this seesaw

because I'm afraid of heights  
he keeps me  
suspended in midair  
screened only by my fear

I spot a stairway in the  
middle of the roof  
of Hartigan School

I am eye level with  
the top rungs of  
telephone posts

and, thru a high noon  
mesh of late June sunshine  
rather than sobbing down

at a smiling fat kid who  
does not play fair

I spot a man  
ringing a steeple bell  
that tolls the end of yet  
another childhood phobia

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\*teeter totter debuted in  
*Chicago Tribune Magazine*