

DANIEL GOODWIN

## **WATCHING MY DAUGHTER PLAY BASKETBALL**

My daughter plays basketball  
with girls who are older.

They and her opponents tower  
over her, but she doesn't ever

let on that she's bothered.  
When she dribbles she

bends over as if in prayer,  
a small sapling in the shade

of pines the British Navy  
stole for masts at the height

of the empire. The taller players  
are stumped. They can't figure

out what to do with her.  
Inevitably they smile, won over

by her outsized willpower.  
I cheer her on in my quiet way

every time she gets the ball  
and breaks away.