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## Letter To J.G. In Rehab

Barbara Armbruster  
*College of DuPage*

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# LETTER TO J.G. IN REHAB

Barbara Armbruster

Here the swollen grey  
belly of the sky  
presses down, groaning  
and restless to deliver  
the snow the weatherman  
promises like a cheerful  
obstetrician.  
I picture you there  
in Arizona:  
hiking high enough  
for snow in stiff  
new boots,  
following a stranger  
into the desert---  
and unwilling John  
the Baptist---  
sniffing the dry air  
for the greasy fumes  
of fast food, and missing that,  
slapping your pocket  
into a nervous tic  
for the cigarettes  
that are not there, either.  
I picture you there  
curled like a baby  
against the desert cold  
crying tears of longing  
for the boy that you were.