

FOURTEEN

After the asthma attacks
he nearly died from in Darwin
and the cocktail of drugs
that kept him alive
his head is now more like
the dark and troubled face
of some strange undiscovered moon
his body swollen half its size again
to a huge and heavy egg
he will not break free from now
school for him
is only a long connected detention
and a personal file
that mimics him
grown fat with suspension
misdemeanour
lack of work
and failure
his negotiated curriculum
is a joke
a trick of only having to do
half the work to pass
but still he can't
his mother only cries at interview
bus driver called him "a fat prick"
and threw him off
banned for a year
this afternoon along the river
and beneath the trees
I watched the huge
and awkward trundle
of his body going home
lost and out of place
walking into the long and futile
endless orbit of his days

20