

CAROL SMALLWOOD

TEA BUBBLES

Once the lid's off you see bubbles align
On the Wendy's cup like Braille,
The hot water dots shape no evident design

I lift the styrofoam cup like mulled wine
Or in adoration of the Holy Grail--
Once the lid's off you see bubbles align

Copernicus didn't change how the sun shines
Even when his theory wasn't thought a tale:
The hot water dots shape no evident design

I pull apart the tea bag looking for a sign
But the string-joined bag leaves no trail,
The hot water dots shape no evident design

The bubbles pop after their water climb
Or seek the inside edges hugging rails
While the tea darkens with time

Raising my cup I toast customers in line
Hoping their quests do not fail;
Once the lid's off you see bubbles align,
The hot water dots shape no evident design

