

Gwendolyn Brooks

(1917-2000)

Sadie and Maud (1945)

Maud went to college.  
Sadie stayed home.  
Sadie scraped life  
With a fine tooth comb.

She didn't leave a tangle in  
Her comb found every strand.  
Sadie was one of the livingest chicks  
In all the land.

Sadie bore two babies  
Under her maiden name.  
Maud and Ma and Papa  
Nearly died of shame.

When Sadie said her last so-long  
Her girls struck out from home.  
(Sadie left as heritage  
Her fine-toothed comb.)

Maud, who went to college,  
Is a thin brown mouse.  
She is living all alone  
In this old house.