

# Yalobusha Review

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Volume 3

Article 10

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1-1-1997

## Poppies

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### Recommended Citation

Kiefer, Rita (1997) "Poppies," *Yalobusha Review*. Vol. 3 , Article 10.  
Available at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/yr/vol3/iss1/10>

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# RITA KIEFER

## *Poppies*

Just before they bloom  
they hover beside our carriage  
house, swarms of green buds  
lolling like pale questions marks  
heads aimed at the ground.  
Women brush them with their skirts  
as they pass and they shudder  
as if to show the seeds they hold.

Soon a shock of red and orange  
will revel in our garden.