

Coming of Age: An Oscar

By Nancy Mann

We need to locate
A most wise, wise sage
For advice about the coming of age.
For example,
From my notebook,
A sample...

Dustin Hoffman, whip-smart
And, no one's fool – SIGH!
Was bullied when he traveled
Back and forth to Junior High...

Bigger boys chased him
Out of the schoolyard.
Taunted him, tied him up;
Pinched him hard...

He got the Oscar –
Was great in Marathon Man.
(Of his acting, I'm a rabid fan).
He accepted it –
(His career was then "made")...

Still, his childhood memories
Didn't dim or fade –
So, he gave not his crafted speech...
Said, hoisting it aloft,
In cracked voice, very soft –
"If I only could've had this –
In the seventh grade!"