

Class Act

Speaking in school
he struck me as guileless and fair-minded
even after being caught
in a plagiarism scandal
which I forgave on the grounds
of youth and stupidity

until one day discussing a novel in English 9
he mimicked a poor girl's speech
in a voice so vicious with condescension
he might have been my father
amusing his cronies
in the country club bar

and that image of a boy
with a man's anger, prejudice, and smugness
replaced the fair-minded one
which was still there on the outside
even after I saw behind it

as one does through daily exposure
as teacher or son,
but will others be so
for lack of a better word
lucky?