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## How to Draw a Political Cartoon

Dede Wilson

Float balloons above the faces  
of children at school. Don't ask why  
your glad balloons explode, erase  
what children might have said or cried.

Draw boys with fire, ready to die.  
Float balloons above their faces.  
Force your pen to write inside,  
defile those spaces with their cries.

Draw closets and locks. Draw desks  
some hide behind to stay alive.  
Float balloons above the faces  
of all who wait. Draw chalk-white cries.

Don't explain. Don't say why  
your glad balloons explode, erase  
what children might have said or cried.  
Float balloons before our eyes.

### Biographical Details:

Dede Wilson has six books of poetry. "Glass" was published as a finalist for the Persephone Press Chapbook Competition, "Sea of Small Fears" won the Main Street Rag Chapbook Contest, and her full-length collection "Eliza: The New Orleans Years" was a finalist for both the Perugia Poetry Award and the Pearl Poetry Prize. "Eliza" was subsequently performed as a one-woman show at the Black Box Theatre in Jackson, MS, and at CAST (Carolina Actors Studio Theatre) in Charlotte, NC. A book of light verse in forms followed by a primer to formal poetry was published by Main Street Rag. Her latest full-length collection, "Under the Music of Blue," appeared in 2017 from Future Cycle Press. Dede's poems have appeared in many journals including Spoon River Poetry Review, Carolina Quarterly, Tampa Review, Painted Bride Quarterly, Southern Poetry Review, Tar River, and on Verse Daily.