

1984

## Salamapo

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## Salamapo

- I Yamashita's  
Nursery school stood  
On a huge hill.  
Flowering hibiscus  
Lined the driveway, and  
Beautiful fish  
Drifted  
In the hallway tank.

Pamela Baker always borrowed  
My peach crayons.  
I never liked her to —  
I wish she had  
A whole box of nothing  
But peach crayons.

- II Llama Island loomed  
In the distance.  
Lindsay's junk chugged  
Out  
Aberdeen Harbor's  
Typhoon shelter walls.  
Llama Island had  
No Llamas, only  
Steamed clams.

Crawdad holes packed the dirt shore  
As mallard ducks paddled  
The water's edge.  
Grandpa smiled, while  
The flitting kite wavered;  
Blustery March winds  
Glided the diamond across the lake.

III Sampan shrimpers  
Cast hand woven nets, and  
Blue lips licked hemp hungrily.  
Wet surf churned salt  
On painted Jaws rock;  
Sharp shark teeth gnawed the cliff  
Of Shek-o Country Club.  
Kennedy calmly served  
Fried lice and double ice teas  
To devouring diners.

Yellow arms reached out, clutching  
Thatched Filipino huts.  
Alligators coated the golf course,  
Company for darkening shadows.  
An eerie glow of light  
Emitted from the swimming pool cave  
Penetrated the night.  
Memories creep back to  
The Hole skinny dipping wet towel evening.