

# Sadie and Maud

By Gwendolyn Brooks

Maud went to college.  
Sadie stayed at home.  
Sadie scraped life  
With a fine-tooth comb.

She didn't leave a tangle in.  
Her comb found every strand.  
Sadie was one of the livingest chits  
In all the land.

Sadie bore two babies  
Under her maiden name.  
Maud and Ma and Papa  
Nearly died of shame.

When Sadie said her last so-long  
Her girls struck out from home.  
(Sadie had left as heritage  
Her fine-tooth comb.)

Maud, who went to college,  
Is a thin brown mouse.  
She is living all alone  
In this old house.

Gwendolyn Brooks, "Sadie and Maud" from *Selected Poems*. Reprinted by consent of Brooks Permissions.

Source: *Selected Poems* (Harper & Row, 1963)