

Stevie Smith



Although the nursery-rhyme-like cadences of her poems and the whimsical drawings with which she illustrated them suggest a child's innocence, Stevie Smith was much concerned with suffering and mortality. (Her macabre sense of humor can shock, as in her most famous poem, "Not Waving But Drowning.") Born Florence Margaret Smith in Hull, Yorkshire, she moved with her family to London when three, then lived in the same house the rest of her life. She published several collections of short prose and letters as well as nearly a dozen volumes of verse. Glenda Jackson portrays the eccentric poet in the 1978 movie *Stevie*.