

### **13 Stripes and 50 Stars Coffee**

*Kum T. H., from Burma*

First day in America

coffee greets me

it's so bitter I need sugar

for sweetness, to remind me of the tea

in my homeland, Burma

but I was new, so that day I mistook

white and creamy cheese

for sweet, creamy sugar

putting cheese into my coffee

with a small spoon

I sampled the coffee

and it remained bitter

so I poured it into the sink

I vowed never to drink  
the 13 stripes and 50 stars coffee  
ever again,  
but coffee still waited for me  
to love it.

One day I went to school,  
home of the Bulldogs  
where my English teacher  
who jokes about landing,  
in *Grammar jail* ,had coffee,  
I smelled 13 stripes  
and 50 stars coffee  
I was like hmmm.....

Yes, Coffee, you smell sweet

and I am wanting you

so I went back home

and made the coffee

but that day I did not mistake

white and creamy cheese

for sweet and creamy sugar

and now you have become my thirteen stripes

and fifty stars coffee!