

**KIM ROBERTS**

**The International Fruit of Welcome**

A pineapple is the perfect gift  
to bring to a blind date.  
A pineapple is like a blind date:  
spiky and armored at first,  
with the hope of sweetness inside.  
A pineapple is the perfect housewarming gift.  
You don't have to wrap it,  
it doesn't spill inside your car.  
It comes in its own house.  
A pineapple is the perfect birthday gift.  
You might prefer a coconut,  
that planet molten at the core,  
but the pineapple has a better hairdo,  
better wardrobe; it never  
goes out of style.  
Think of all those historic houses  
with pineapple bolsters, pineapple finials,  
pineapples carved above lintels.  
Such a sophisticated fruit:  
every sailor wants one.