

*Poetry - Philosophy and Respect
& Other Poems*

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Art In The Basement

Decomposition

Wolftrap

Jean-Louise-Kerouac

Halfway

When Propellers Spun

Aloha Menehune

Who Remembers The Armenians

Teddy

Poetry Philosophy and Respect

Four Seasons

Whatever

Pentagon

Dynamite Christians

Election Reform

Bring Home The Bacon

A Little After Ten

Ode To Failure

Lawyers-Doctors-Bureaucrats

Lights

Do Wha Ditty Ditty Do

Cross Bronx Expressway

Old York New York

Art In The Basement

Wanderin' through Hirshhorn - one sunny day
Lookin' at nonobjective art - on display
Canvas - marble - metal - picture board
White - black - one dot - some tire cord -

Paint splashed
Round - about
Bland - quiet
Busy - tryin' to shout -

Followin' a tour group - 'round - and around
Lookin' for meanin' - where none could be found
Felt like Thurber - lookin' through his scope
Seeing a blur - while lookin' for hope -

Rode the elevator
Down its shaft
Searched the basement
Fore and aft
Stopped - a Davies nude
Overcome - by ethereal
Left uplifted
Not animadverial

Yes

Arthur Bowen Davies

Ah

Decomposition

Expected Tchaikovsky - maybe Rossini
Not a university compost weenie
Euphony not in his repertoire
Decomposition his forte -

Dissonance crashed on - and on - and on
Patrons departed upset - bereft
Orchestra played on - and on - and on
Musicians the only ones left -

Symphony garners grants with composition
Charlatans win - nepotition
Play new works - condition
National Endowment - addition -

National Endowment for Arts
Music - Poetry - Dance
Artists flower by the hour
Artistic renaissance -

Symphony seeks grant - on hunches
Government funding - must abound
Patrons depart - in bunches
Classical - silent sound -

Viva Vivaldi - Bravo Bach - Bring Back Beethoven

Wolftrap

Heat oppressive - no breeze at all
Musty moisture - a steamy blight
Trapped inside - a wooden hall
Wolftrap - sultry Saturday night -

Lights dim - curtains rise
Fat German students - break into song
Aging tenor - of enormous size
Holds high notes - on - and on - and on -

First row - orchestra seat
Student Prince - operetta treat

Night oppressive
Chorus obsessive
Tenor obesive
Seat adhesive -

On a mission
Stay awake till intermission -

Perspiration glowing
Eyelids closing
Heads nodding
Elbows prodding -

Saturday night nap -

Wolftrap

Jean - Louise Kerouac

Before Beatnick - there was Beat
Poetry - on the attack
Sung by Jean - Louise Kerouac -

Metric - rhythmic syllables
Stressed - from within
Stressed - from without -

Before Kerouac - there was Pound
Locked away - St. Elizabeths
Rhythmic - ethereal - ode unsound -

Coffee houses where
Poetry did grow
In - San Francisco -

Words - music for the mind
Coffee black
Makes one go blind -

Red and white
A wooden mess
Off Van Ness

Tommy's -

Drink Black and Tan
Be a man

Halfway

Tis a shame for a bard to say
I read poetry - halfway -

And sometimes - hold my nose
Wonderin' -
Is it bovine manure
Or - bad prose -

Stilted stanzas
Makin' no sense
From life experience
Of turgid nonsense -

Lacking in focus
Composition
Reflecting a pointless
Predilection -

If one wants to write poetry
Nonobjective - abstract
Why not compose
In Dostyevski format -

Or better yet
With canvas and brush -
Poetry should be understandable
To us -

Not to those
Who believe
Their king is wearin'
A new suit of clothes -

Poets should construct
Not deconstruct -

Nonobjective is -
An art form
For visual demonstration -

Poetic words are for
Auditory communication -

Poetry should thunder
Make one wonder -

Poetry should teach
Make one reach -

Poetry should ring
Make one sing -

Poetry should sigh
Make one cry -

Poets of the street
Will have their say
When academia
Do go astray -

Did you read -

Halfway

When Propellers Spun

Flying was elegant - it had flair
When folks dressed up to wear
Coats - ties and hose
Dresses - suits - fine clothes -

When propellers spun
Flying was great fun
Fashion was in style
Among the rank and file -

Now - masses fly the line
On peanuts they do dine
No silver plated care
Sack lunches are their fare -

Denim is their choice of cloth
Adornin' a generation of sloth
And sneakers clad their feet
Our young traveling elite -

Hi-Ho - for the good old days
When we flew above the haze
Dressed for flair - fun
When propellers spun

Aloha Menehune

I speak for one Menehune -

Where is Kanaka's cry
For his Menehune kin -

I speak for one Menehune -

His fish ponds - his canals
Speak of Kanaka's sin -

I speak for one Menehune -

Butchered - eaten
Long pig in a bin -

I speak for one Menehune -

Who da kine Hawaiian
Kanaka - Haole
Pake - Portugee -

I speak for one Menehune -

He belongs here -

Listen - Kanaka
His last earthly shout
Menehune Power
Everyone else - out

ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono

Who Remembers The Armenians

Rise up - King Ludwig
Und - Lovely Lola mouse
Oompah Bands are history
In Munchen's brauhaus -

Ein Prosit - Prosit - Prosit
Ein Bier - Bier - Bier -

Oompah Bands are history
Deutsche mark held so dear -

Brauhaus is rocking to
Ein Bier - Bier - Bier -

Dachau outside Munchen
Genocide sprechen here -

In Munchen steht ein brauhaus
Ein Bier - Bier - Bier -

Nuremberg just a token
Holocaust memories clear -

Auschwitz over the horizon
Ein Bier - Bier - Bier -

Oven fires - burn again

"After all - who remembers the Armenians?"

Adolf Hitler 1939

Teddy

Spring gave its promise
May is for children -

April's contradiction
May is for contrition -

Mortal tears
Won't wash this crime away
Teddy was crushed - yesterday -

Man's justice
Won't punish this crime away
Teddy was crushed - yesterday -

Heaven's intercession
Won't pray this crime away
Teddy was crushed - yesterday -

Children in Oklahoma Day Care
A holocaust - impossible to share
Teddy was crushed - yesterday -

Tiny Tim has sung -

"God bless us - everyone"

Poetry - Philosophy and Respect

Duke Ellington

In music and lyric - great one -

And who can ever forget

Louis - Satchmo - Armstrong -

James Whitcomb Riley

Brought frost and pumpkins to life -

Homer

Elucidated darkness from light -

Edgar Albert Guest

Immortalized home and road -

Rudyard Kipling

Disked harrow from toad -

Ira Gershwin

Brought life - lyrics and song -

Marcus Valerius Martialis

Defined poetry - good and wrong -

I salute those who smote their lyre

At home alone - or by the fire

To all Poets who rhyme - reflect

Poetry Philosophy - and Respect

Four Seasons

Spring

Spring is songs
That must be sung
Spring brings hope
For old and young -

Spring bursts forth - a-new
With love and desire
Spring means rain
To quench earth's fire -

Spring brings happiness
For those - long in tooth
Spring is trampled
By misspent youth

Summer

Summer is a-comin'
Clowns will do a-prat
Summer is a-comin'
Sun is high at that -

Summer is a-comin'
Promise a-land a-gold
Summer is a-goin'
Brought a-tale old -

Summer is a-goin'
Grass is dying at that
Summer is a-goin'
Clowns have grown fat

Fall

Fall floats in on
A quiet river raft
Ain't no ride as
Smooth as that craft -

Fall sneaks in when
We're fast asleep
Sneaking up
With a-crawl and a-creep -

Fall slips away
On a-slow big river
Harbinger a-winter
Makes one shiver -

Winter

Winter's hard when
North winds blow
Winter's soft when
White with snow -

Winter's sport when
Youth grown bold
Winter's a-dread when
Man grows old -

Winter's new with
Skies swept clear
Winter's gray when
Death draws near -

Life's seasons come and go - lazy in spring - quick with snow

Whatever

Whatever - happened to Poetry of noetry

Poetry - Poetry - Poetry

Whatever - happened to Poets long lost

Longfellow - Riley and Frost -

Whatever - happened to Poems that rhyme

The Bard's sonnets of another time

Whatever - happened to fog creepin' in

My God - Carl Sandburg could really win -

Whatever - happened to frost on a pumpkin

Riley rhymin' like a country bumpkin

Whatever - happened to Chestnut parameters

Longfellow - Homer and Iambic pentameters -

Whatever - happened to Poetry - Poetry - Poetry

Poems of homestead - hearth and yard

Whatever - happened to Poetry - Poetry - Poetry -

Like

Longfellow's

Sandburg's

Riley's

Frost's

Homer's

and the Bard's

Pentagon

White sandstone turned dingy brown
With soot - from Washingtowm
Five buildings - wrapped in one -

Pentagon

Each building - five stories high
A center courtyard - open to sky
And - closed to the sun -

Pentagun

Divided by four
Army - Navy - Air Force
And - Marine Corps -

Pentagore

Could have stopped a war
Planning McNamara's gore
All you had to say
Can't win it that way -

Pentasway

Blue suits and khaki
Politician's lackey
Dancin' on a string
To an Executive Wing -

Pentalacky

What - no promotion?
This side of the ocean
Five sided square
Why didn't you care -

Pentagrief

Career and opportunities
Open up - so take a stand
Better sign up for Vietnam
Now - ain't war grand -

Pentaband

Got a new way to fight
Pockets of men separated
But - connected by air
All alone - out there -

Pentaplan

Damn you - five sided swamp
We got mired on the ground
Waiting for your air
To come around -

Pentabog

Your plan's not new
It's over a century old
The British did the same
In Afghanistan I'm told -

Pentacopy

Ten thousand marched
Over the Khyber Pass
Only one soul came out
With his pack and ass -

Pentadumb

Afghans saw supplies
Set apart from tents
Like the Vietcong
Came between
Men and munitions
And won -

Pentadone

Five sided enigma
With parking lots full
Should-a used
Your head
Your heart
Not your -

Pentabull

Dynamite Christian

Liberty and justice ain't their mission

In - the Christian Coalition -

Maybe it's reactionary
Coalition folks never vary
Using religion to promote
Their agenda and your vote -

Serious thin-lipped - frown on face
Keep them women - in their place
Family values - a-wink and a-nod
To control a woman's bod -

Shout out how you follow the Bible
Using guidance from - Tower of Babel
No Christian ever shows contrition
In the Christian Coalition -

Maybe it's reactionary
Coalition folks never vary
Chain yourselves to a door
Womens rights - such a bore -

Liberty and justice ain't their mission

In - the Christian Coalition

Election Reform

Campaigning candidates
In New Hampshire and Iowa
Voters cry for
Political moratoria -

Red ties and blue suits
Clutter TV screens
Filling our senses
With visual obscenes -

Politicians voices climb
One - two - three octaves
Spouting gibberish
And double talk -

Speeches spurting from
Sinuous sinuses
Makes one want to
Get up and walk -

False smiles and hogwash
Makes for one headache
Dining on road kill
Makes for one bellyache -

Politicians kiln
Like ceramic pottery
Maybe it's better
To pick them by lottery -

Congress legislated
Incumbents to victory
Perverse politicians
No longer a mystery -

Sledding through snows of
New England charms
Holding noses
At Iowa hog farms -

Hey - we go about
Elections all wrong
And it isn't always
A politician's song -

Candidates are cash cows
For TV and newspaper ads
They fill the void
Between School and Christmas fads -

So - lets elect politicians
For all mothers -
Who throw nickels around
Like man hole covers -

Lets limit campaigning
To six weeks
Three for primaries
Three for keeps -

Make media time
Free and exempt
'Cause familiarity
Breeds contempt

Bring Home The Bacon

Political contracts - lawyer stuff
Neither can be trusted
Lawmakers get the glory
Citizens - just get busted -

We said - come home
Plant the corn
You stayed on
Tooting your horn -

We said - come home
Weed the rows
You stayed on saying
Anything goes -

We said - come home
Help with the harvest
You stayed on
Feathering your nest -

Now your on the stump
Asking for our vote
And we're asleep
Didn't take note -

So - take our money
Take our vote
Spend our taxes
Like sailors off a boat -

But - save those words
Crafted carefully and sure
Bring them home
We need the manure

Ode To Failure

Do we want to turn
Political tides around
Or to a single issue
Fanatics be bound -

Tug on Superman's cape
Spit into the wind
Tear the mask off the old Lone Ranger
And you still can't win -

News releases fly into trash
Media moguls want only cash
No one votes for an under puppy
Not a Libertarian or a Yuppy -

Single issues win the day
Fairness is lost in the fray
Anger - half truths - laughing gas
Voters elect a diving jackass -

Don't stay away
Or - fret and fuss
Or - blame others
Or - rant and cuss -

If we do -
Look in the mirror
The enemy - is us

Lawyers - Doctors - Bureaucrats

Old fashioned country lawyer
Spittoon nestled on his floor -

Caring horse and buggy doctor
Making house calls to our door -

County clerk - serving patiently
Never - ever - nevermore -

The cost of their services
Has risen sky-high
And non value added
To everything we buy -

When a lawyer executes a trust
His bill will make us all go bust -

When a doctor checks a-body over
His bill will buy a new Land Rover -

And after each political fall
Our taxes build a new city hall -

Don't dare give a lawyer a-call
His clocks have only hours
No minutes or seconds at all -

Doctors charge astronomical fees
Laboratories - hospitals - specialists
Until we're off our feet
And down on our knees -

Bureaucrats are a wondrous bunch
While we wait in line
They eat lunch -

Lawyers - Doctors - Bureaucrats
Sing in a song known only to bats
A smitten of Latin to obfuscate
Hiding their guilds from prying eyes -

Lawyers - Doctors - Bureaucrats
Have more lives than the Musical Cats
Make their own music - so to say
Hiding their guilds from the light of day -

Lawyers - Doctors - Bureaucrats
Cut purses - dips - kleptomaniacs
Physician assistants - legal interns
Spin the wheel while the money churns -

Lawyers - Doctors - Bureaucrats
Behind iron gates a clatter of cats
Country Club living suits to a tee
Point - set - match - verse and melody

A Little After Ten

Looked real pretty
That wild Orchid Tree -

Trouble was
Roots
Lifted the sidewalk -

So I
Sawed it off
Near the ground
Left a stump -

Roots kept on growin'
Sidewalk movin' up -

Ol' blacksnake found a
hideaway
Came to stay -

Watched from my den
Till he came out
Of his
A little after ten -

Layin' stretched out
Sunnin'
Tongue flickin'
In and out -

I turn away
He's gone -

Evening
He's back -

Loungin' like
A curled up pole -

I turn away
He's gone -

Mornin'
He's back
In his
Orchid Tree Den -

Till he
Comes out
To sun
A little after ten

Lights

Driving away from Sierra Blanca
Coasting downhill - saving gas
Flew upward - out of dark barranca
Lights below made one - gasp -

Twinkling on horizon
Must have been a thousand or so
Sparkling diamonds light the night
Land of enchantment - New Mexico -

High above the city of angels
Peering through yellow-brown dye
Lights of LA - at right angles
Twinkling in a brindle soup sky -

Golden crime lights of Washington
Change night - into bright yellow day
Miles and miles - and miles of monuments
Where scoundrels and hooligans play -

New York City lights - bright lights
But - not in Central Park
Not a place I'd run too
After dark -

San Francisco city lights
Shrouded in coastal grog
High above a Golden Gate
Yellow - nebulous - arc fogdog -

Honolulu's city lights
Celebrated in song
Memories of makai delights
Mauka valleys string a-long -

Tiki torches burn bright
Dotting beaches like stars
Singing Aloha late at night
Inside Hotel Street bars -

City lights
Warm
Friendly
When about -

Mortals turn
Lights on

Gods turn -
Lights out

Do Wah Ditty Ditty Do

Lost in the town of Do Wah Ditty
Broke and lonely again with Chris
Brent drove us downtown -
He's off with Bonnie Blue gown -

Been out on pavement for hours
Windy - cold - damp and mutter
Nothing to be found
Walkin' in the gutter -

Wandered down a side street
Narrow as the Appian Way
Greeted by hooligans
Not outside to play -

Broke into a gallop
Running for our lives
Cut through an empty lot
Backs broke out in hives -

Brent's leaning on a-lamp post
Grinning a Cheshire-Cat smile
Bonnie Blue Gown on his arm
"Been here quite awhile"

Do Wah Ditty Ditty Do!

Cross Bronx Expressway

English horns blasting tenor
A most impressive sound
Is it a Rolls Royce or Bentley
Trying to get around -

English horns blasting tenor
No longer a melodious sound
On our way to Little Neck
Where English autos do abound -

Delivery trucks on the left
No shoulder on the right
Cross Bronx Expressway
Can be a-friggin' fright -

Cross Bronx Expressway
Has to our dismay
Only four narrow lanes
Two going each way -

Cross Bronx Expressway
Rolls Royce or Bentley
Escape from city fire
English horns blasting tenor
Little Neck is their shire

Old York - New York

Old York
South of North York Mores
West of Yorkshire Wold
Anglo - Saxon and Jute I'm told -

New York
South of Boston Common
West of Hamptons Bay
Dutch - Irish and Italian they say -

Old York celebrates rites
New York celebrates lights -

Old York - shires
New York - fires -

Old York - pubs
New York - subs -

Old York - pax
New York - ax -

Old York - honey
New York - money

Dot Dot Dot - Com

Where's disinformation under the sun

Dot Dot Dot - Com

Where's garbage in - garbage out from

Dot Dot Dot - Com

Who's inside when work's to be done

Dot Dot Dot - Com

Who's as stupid as dumb-finger Don

Dot Dot Dot - Com

Who's a waste of our precious time

Dot Dot Dot - Com

Who's number one in on-line crime

Dot Dot Dot - Com

Who's work stacks up till we're behind

Dot Dot Dot - Com

When does creativity depart our mind

Dot Dot Dot - Com

Where oh where did you come from

Dot Dot Dot - Com

Dot Dot Dot - Com

Dot Dot Dot - Done

Ohs & Ones

We're one strange species
Sittin' atop the food chain -

Sendin' space probes - out
And don't find signs of life -

Yet we believe aliens visit
Every single night -

We build fancy adding machines
That store and retrieve information -

We attribute them with human form
Sometimes - procreation -

Adding machines called computers
My God - how they computate -

Government and business commutes
Believe machines can procreate -

With Ohs and Ones set aside
Computers add - subtract and divide -

When we need to store information
Ohs and Ones stack up inside -

Ohs and Ones aren't creation
Just data automation -

Programmers don't create information
Just codes - by alchemization -

Hardware and software are vessels
For information created by man -

Won by the lowest bidder
With input by an orangutan -

Computers execute instructions
In BASIC - COBOL or FORTRAN -

Then store and release data
Input and output by man -

Computers do repetitive tasks
Eliminating drudgery -

Attribution of more than that
Is intellectual muggery -

Some computers do neat things
Much better than before -

Some control a thermostat
Or act as word processor -

But - when your machine talks
To my machine in Ohs and Ones -

Who's behind the curtain
Pulls the levers and runs -

The Wizard of Oz you say
Escapin' in a hot air balloon -

If you believe in him my friend
Do I have a bridge for you soon -

Typin' at five words a minute
Over multiple on-line lines -

Payin' dollars to Ma Bell
Keepin' up with the times -

Our Ohs and Ones
Have found an old path -
We've just reinvented
A slow telegraph -
Have your machine call mine
They can do lunch

Editors - Writers and Agents

Editors assemble I'm told
Spindle - mutilate and fold
And sometimes delete - too
Refine - alter and shoo -

Agents review - criticize - assess
Represent - collect and dispute
And their selling is in the telling
Afflicted by agenisis caput -

Writers are a finicky bunch
Passing manure as art dejure
Meaningless drivel and junk
Then walking out in a funk -

Illiterate books are on an incline
Editors - Agents and Writers in decline
Inverse proportional ratio in control
Pro - bono and publico -

If Agents won't represent
And Editors won't edit
And Writers won't make sense
Verbum sat sapientiest do

Genetics

Don't want any special favors
Or human sacrifice do -

We're all in this together
Genetically I'm you -

We stood upright in Africa
Mother of all humanity -

Her genes are in all of us
To doubt it is insanity -

Chased out of Scotland
Ireland - England - Wales -

Crawled up many a tower
To escape the Norseman's sails -

Fought on Concord bridge
Catholic through and through -

Religious persecuted Protestant
Indentured servant - too -

Don't want any special favors
Shouldn't want them - too -

I'm a victim of society
Genetically I'm you

Buba Dubble

Without limits there's excess
Social graces - become a-mess -

Without limits - anything goes
We be king in a new suit of clothes -

Know what's neater than swinging in trees
Ripping our pants out at the knees -

Following the leader don't make us a man
Won't be nothing - but an orangutan -

Pants hanging down - crotch at knees
Wonder who we be trying to please -

We don't shave - we leave a stubble
Ain't we as pretty as - Buba Dubble -

Won't wear coat and tie to the game
Won't wear sneakers without a name -

Won't wear shirt over our tank top
We leave our shoes untied and slop -

When we're out of step - we shuffle
When we don't know words - we muffle -

When we don't see things as society do
We ain't wrong - it must be you

Alice Rips It

Ocean lagoon and river
Fished till fish are gone -

Nets thrown at night
Lookin' to steal the spawn -

Boaters and motors roarin'
Loud - fast - free -

Plowin' through sea grass
And harmless manatee -

Open air drug markets flourish
Caterin' to the unknowin' young -

While constables chase cars
And nudists under the sun -

Preachers on our sidewalk
Picketin' old route one -

Harassin' a clinic
When there's honest work to be done -

If Rip Van Winkle slept
For another score or more -

And came back to life
Upon our American shore -

Would he understand
Within his field of view -

Longhaired boys on the beach
Wearin' ear rings - bloomers -

Shorthaired girls wearin' jockstraps
Combat boots and - tattoo -

Bet old Rip would throw up
His hands and say -

"Old Lewis Carroll
Knew these folks
When he scribbled
In his enigmatic style"

*"But I don't want to go out
among mad people," Alice remarked.
"Oh you can't help that -"
said the Cheshire-Cat:
"we're all mad here."*

In The Zone

Conscious - not concentratin'
On the task at hand -

Doin' - not thinkin'
Subconscious makes its stand -

When we put it all together
Mind and body - one alone -

Our thoughts will hit all net
When we're in the zone -

A mind empty of all distractions
Trained to the task -

With practice - practice - practice
Will give all one can ask -

Don't try to force performance
Mind and body out of synch -

You'll slice it to the right
Or compose a Mahler clink -

We're crouched near the waterhole
Our legs screamin'
Get up - get down -

Basic instinct takes over
Mind alert
Body relaxed -

The antelope comes
We wait until
Its head goes down -

We rise slowly
Throwin' our spear
In one movement -

Not aimin'
We imagine
Its flight -

Our spear strikes
There will be
Dancing tonight -

If we miss -

Like Mahler
We can compose
Dissonance

Pastime

Shufflin' and scufflin' and spittin' on grass
And scratchin' ones ass

Pastime
It's our national pastime -

Mumblin' and grumblin' a four letter curse
Bellyachin' - towel snappin' and things much worse

Pastime
National pastime -

Strikin' - spikin and walkin' out
Posturin' and lecturin' - a-fingerin' lout

Pastime -
Seedy and greedy and askin' for more
Money - more money for spittin' on the floor

Vacant lots hallowed
This silly old game
Kids in knickers
Now ain't it a shame

It's pastime -

Back when baseball was number one
Didn't keep track of how many we won -

Organized leagues were for teens
American Legion ball played in jeans -

Hard ball was a grown up game
Playin' softball wasn't the same -

A friendlier game to hand and to head
Sunup to sunset till we almost dropped dead -

We'd chose up sides
Most everyone would play -

Played one game or two
Then go away -

Eat lunch and have another go
For the rest of the day -

Walked six miles to town
For a pick up game -

Played mornin' to night
In a group with no name -

Didn't get mean
Until we became teen -

Adults and coaches
Took control of the game -

Organized baseball
Was to blame -

Not everyone was allowed to play
We used four outfielders
Coaches make us use three -

To make sure it was fair
When the playin' was done
We wiped the slate clean-

Not adults and coaches

Winning can be mean

Art

Art is emotion
Commotion
Sadness
Tears -

Art is a smile
Giddiness
Guile -

Art is imagination
Creation
Communication -

Art is substance
Reflection
Introspection -

Art thrives on
Negative - or
Positive anonsse
Hate it - or
Love it response -

Art dies from

Anonymous.

Teachers

Introducing literature
With guidance - care -

Can produces miracles
For those who share -

Homer - Shakespeare - Clarke
Milton - Dickens - Twain -

Swift - London - Harte
Kipling - Poe - Paine -

Longfellow - Lowell - Pound
Sinclair - Lewis - Steinbeck -

Michener and Tom Clancy
To read until we drop -

Modern - long - not fancy
Or use as a door stop -

Teachers bring forth dreams from books
Chock full of sealing wax and cooks -

Open us up to the writer's craft
Sonnets poems - things like that -

One lesson not forgot
Teachers are a wondrous lot

Shaman

Shemya's windswept tundra
A fog bound Arctic grave -

Black pearl of the Aleutians
Desolate - treeless - drab -

Arctic gales sweep the fog away
Attu shines stiletto white -

Lonely mountain majesty
Alabaster in moonlight -

Agattu hunkers close by
Empty of all life -

Cliffs soarin' above ocean foam
Free of human strife -

Shaman crosses o'er Bearing Sea
In a seal skin kayak canoe -

Seekin' a glass fishin' float
On black beaches of Attu -

An empty kayak glides ashore
Inside - a glass fishin' float -

Shaman's God has said adieu
Great Spirit - an empty boat

Sunbury Mornin'

Breeze freshenin' from noreast
A hint of rain in pre-dawn air -

Ridin' out to the furthest reach
On a spotted Indian Pony - mare -

Close cropped grass - wet with dew
Splashes with every foot print -

Mornin - haze risin' up to the sky
A cloudy - milky - white dye -

Sun rises o'er the eastern hill
A scarlet - yellow - orange ball -

Shinin' dimly through dawn haze
Mother - Father to one and all -

Coffee brewin' o'er an open fire
Aroma arrives on mornin' breeze -

Sharp - clear - memories are dear
Aroma floatin' through the trees -

Turn around

Indian Mound

Sun burnin'

Man yearnin'

For just one more

Sunbury Mornin'

Golden California

Long - long - long ago
On a golden summer's day -

Windin' down a mountain road
To the banks of the Sacramento -

Golden fields of dead grass
Flowed like molasses on glass -

A pepper brown valley vista
From desert to mountain pass -

Golden California was cooler
Before the mountain dams came -

Water for irrigation brought
Moisture - heat - and shame -

Golden California's desert's
San Joaquin valley fever -

Attacked more than a few
Arabia after the battle - too -

California's golden valleys
Hectares of dead grass -

Snows melt in the spring
Flow from mountain pass

Wild Coast

Look down from forty thousand feet
Across the Coastal Mountain range -

Redwoods near blue ocean side
Inland valleys - brown mange -

Travel the length of San Joaquin
Desert colors of sand and tan -

Waste land sunk down fifty feet
After irrigation by man -

Follow the ocean breeze
West toward settin' sun -

Turn northward toward Shasta
Along route one-oh-one -

Branch northwest at Cloverdale
Taste the fruit of wineries -

Glide in silent grace outside Philo
Through cathedral of giant trees -

Wind down Navaro River
Toward an ocean grand -

Exit a redwood canopy
To wild coastal sand -

Isn't easy

Travelin' to

Mendocino

Windin' roads

Ever switchin'

Back

And forth

Over and around

Wanderin' upward

And downward -

White water cascadin'

Through vineyard valley

And apple blossom spring -

Meanderin' in and out

Of coastal pines

Covered in clouds of moss -

Under enveloping darkness - enter

Redwoods black with glistenin' gloss -

Skies open

To a golden town

High above

On a cliff overlookin' the sea -

Bermuda in winter

Scotland in spring

Wild coast of Mendocino

End of wanderin'

Woodchuck

Woodchuck's scurryin'
Sky's turning scarlet red -

Storm clouds are buildin'
For the family homestead -

Now - Grandfather farmed with horses
Had a Border collie at his side -

His barn was full of new mown hay
Lots of places to seek and hide -

Hams hung in his smokehouse
He let his chickens roam -

A slab of bacon in his pantry
A right cozy old farm home -

Government subsidized corn - wheat
Prices dropped like a rock -

Every time those folks meddled
He lost half his stock -

His hogs went first - then bacon
Then his hams from the rafter -

His horses were the next to go
Chickens followed after -

Grandfather leased the land to Uncle Sam
Farm work had turned scrabble - hard -

Our government had the bottom land
All Grandfather had was his barn and yard -

Where his Percherons and Clydesdales did reside
Stalls stand empty of Maude - Sandy and Clyde -

Now the windmill wobbles - at its best
Where chickens and geese used to rest -

Barn's been empty for quite a spell
Since Grandfather passed away -

Took many a year
Before a woodchuck came to stay -

Barn doors hangin' - to one side
Woodchuck found a place to hide -

Likes to sun on top his mound - cause
Grandfather's Border collie isn't around -

Barn door faces the kitchen
Parlor - dinin' room -

Woodchuck took up residence inside
The barns dusk and gloom -

Water trough's gone empty
Cracked concrete sides -

Windmills busted and rusted
No more wild rides -

Father turned to teachin'
Farm began to slide -

Later clerked the hardware store
Friends stood by his side -

I miss the hickory fired smokehouse
And Grandfather's sugar cured ham -

Now our food is store-bought
Government can't farm worth a damn

Woodchuck's scurryin'
Sky's turning scarlet red -

Storm clouds are buildin'
For the family homestead

Kitchen

Kitchen brings life to a farm
With its windows wrapped all round -

Cast-iron range is mighty warm
When snow is a-comin' down -

Cast-iron range double oven
Modern miracle under the sun -

Back burner cooler than the front
Now that's where a-sayin' comes from -

Old farmhouse summer kitchen
Used year round with its -

Cast-iron range fired by coal
And uneven floor - linoleum bound -

Cast-iron range - all fired up
Glow a dark - cherry red -

Reservoir full of hot water
For a wash-up at the homestead -

Steam rises above its reservoir
Pot of bran is simmerin' on top -

Turkey cooking behind the oven door

Coffee percolatin' -

Plop

Plop

Plop

Pantry's stacked high with summer's crop

Canned pickles - beets and tomatoes -

Hams hang down from rafter's top

Next to a burlap sack of potatoes -

Cured bacon ready to slice on the shelf

Next to the coffee beans and grinder -

Christmas fruit cake - half uneaten

Grandfathers dandelion wine -

Grandfather goes to town Saturday night

Smokin' his weekly cigar -

Kitchen cabinet door - on the right

White candy sack - Sunday light -

Family gathered - nightly

Around the table in the kitchen -

Parlor was for Sunday guests

Until radio and TV came a-bitchin' -

Wasn't long before
The Cast-iron range wore out -

Kitchen seemed empty
Electric stove about -

Family scattered
Not as close as before -

Cast-iron range is of another day
And the homestead we long for

Cock Pheasant

Morn's a crisp cabernet
Hazy - cool - late Ohio fall

Frost is crunchin' on the meadow
Exhileratin' season - for all -

Harvest's mostly sold
Some stored in the barn

Now it's huntin' time
Season for those that harm -

Folks who carry double barrels - and
Shoot at rabbits - woodchuck - pheasant

Deer - hunters - or barn
I'd just as soon - not -

Nose pressed to kitchen window
On frost born autumn day

Looking for Cock pheasant
Through early mornin' haze -

Kitchen alive with bacon
Pancakes - coffee - hash

Water trough now empty of
Cock pheasant - full of dash -

Struttin' - late summer
Crowin' - early fall

Preenin' - bright feathers
Cock pheasant - stretches tall -

Waitin' - watchin' for arrival
Of nature's magnificent bird -

Quietly - inside the kitchen
Not wantin' to be heard -

Nose pressed to frosty glass
Butter coagulatin' in the churn

Huntin' season will soon pass
Cock pheasant - will he return -

Huntin' season now a siren song
Cock pheasant's gone to ground

After the slaughter's o'er
Top of water trough he's found -

Wasn't long
He was gone

Scioto River - North Of Bellpoint

Scioto River - north of Bellpoint
Lonely mournin' song

A cool summer dawn does anoint -

Mournin' doves hauntin' coo
A melody mired in memory deep

Mental - recessive - glue -

Mournin' doves nestin' along river
Peaceful - lonely - hauntin'

Mournin' coo - a late summer shiver -

Water splashin' - basin to face
Sleep lingers - inside both eyes

Misty morn arrivin' at snails pace -

High atop Scioto River hill
Wisps of fog - liftin'

Mournin' doves - peaceful still -

Scioto River - north of Bellpoint
Lonely mournin' song

A cool summer's dawn does anoint

Eternity

Travelin' home - longin'
For peace quiet - a friendly farm

Hearts quicken - passin' by Uncle John's
Soon we'll see a gray old barn -

Turnin' west on the ol' stone road
Chock-full of childhood song

Past seven giant walnut trees
Stopped - - - couldn't go on -

Barns - fences - farmhouse
All were gone -

Left standin'
Two stone pillars

Announcin' overgrown fields
Two farms east of Miller's -

Expect to die
It's our fate

But - a farm
All that's left is - a gate -

Better off
Not to return

Looking at ones mortality
Makes a stomach churn -

Why build of paper
Brick - or wood

Paper crumbles
Wood rots

Brick
Of little good -

But - does this really matter
Earth will swallow some

What's left
Will scatter -

Evolvin'
Over million years

Hawaiian volcanoes
Create more land than fears -

Isn't it best
To be remembered

In song and tale -

As more'n a zip lock baggy
On the geologic scale

Chair

Cane Back - bottom
Walnut wooden frame

Armrests worn - year after year
Rocking chair - yang -

Made by Father
Of Grandfather

Passed on to Son
Grandson -

When Grandfather passed away
It came to stay

Recaned - packed - shellacked
Father didn't want it back -

Traveled overseas - twice
Grandfather would have thought

Hawaii - nice -

No one ever sits in it

Not Grandfather's chair

He died there

Rat - A - Tat Drum

Left the farm in sixty-one
To young to tote a gun

Lee's Army of Virginia
Heard a rat-a-tat drum -

Drummed through Shilo
Second battle of Bull Run

Drummed along Shenandoah
Rat-a-tat Rat-a-tat drum -

Joined young Custer
Golden locks - tall

Chasin' Mosby's Raiders
Through Shenandoah fall -

Captured on a winters night
Sleepin' under a Newmarket tree

Rebel lieutenant saved a boy
Set this drummer free -

Returned to the farm
Stowed his drum away
War - lost its charm
Went outside to play

Rat-a-Tat - Tat-Tat-Tat - Rat-a-Tat - Tat-Tat-Tat - Rat-a-Tat

Moonlight and Roses

Sweat pourin' down inside a uniform
Wool jacket in July is mite too warm -

Cemetery is a strange place
To christen a highway - Rainbow

Hot - an' humid midsummer day
Not a place we'd go -

Bussed us out to Alum Creek
Not a town in sight

Marched in from cemetery gate
Muffled drums - funeral blight -

Played taps at grave - Rainbow Brigadier
Colonel led his doughboys in prayer -

Hotter than Hades in a coal bin
Played Moonlight and Roses for him -

Colonel jumped up - began to shout
"Brigadier can hear - he's stirrin' about" -

And we played Moonlight and Roses again

And we played Moonlight and Roses again

Sweat pouring down
Inside a hat crown -

And we played Moonlight and Roses again

Class Reunion

Most feared words

Age sixty-one

Class Reunion -

Invitation came

With winter's snow

Everyone's goin'

Wouldn't you know -

Religious school

We went too

Left of Lenin

Ain't it true -

Humanities - History

Gone astray

Political correctin'

Rules the day -

Pockets empty

After tax

Head's bald

As Uncle Max -

Body - saggin'
Worn with age

Mind frozen
A blank page -

Last attended
Age forty-one

Didn't know
Anyone -

Should I go
Stay away

Play guess who
Look at backs

Suit's tight too
With the fats -

Plenty to fear
Can't drown it out

With beer -

Stomach be fine

Drinkin' wine -

So -

Went back
Wearin' my best shirt

My God
We're older'n dirt -

Most feared words
Age sixty-one
Class reunion

*Tales
For Picture Books*

Owen - James Owen

*2835 North Highway A1A - 903
Indialantic Florida 32903*

407 - 777- 1901

Tales

Alligator Foo
Elephante'
Top Hat Wombat
Coo - Coo - Kookabura
The Great Gray Ghost
A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing
Leggety - Peggety - Bird
Bunny Squirrel
Crocodyle Kyle
Penthouse Pussycats
Alley Cat
Sea Turtle
Dingo Dog
Kira
Gofor' Turtle
Minnie
Right-On Whale
Ol' Dog
Wilson
Pitty-Pat
Snicker-Snake
Tale of a Tail
Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

Alligator Foo

Who's our favorite in the zoo -

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

Who dines on one before he eats two -

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

Who's ol' hide is tougher than shoe -

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

Who chomps up bears like Winnie the Pooh -

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

Who has rows of teeth to chew and chew -

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

And - who'd like to dine on me and you?

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator *Foo!*

[Picture]

Alligator - Alligator - Alligator

And a Foo To You *Too!*

[Picture]

Elephante'

Tripping through the jungle - free - happy and gay

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Stoppin' to munch on trees and leaves and hay

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Captured by a mean ol' nasty ol' Rick O'Shay

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Sailin' o'er the ocean - trumpetin' anchors away

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Sailin' away - today - goin' a long - long way

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Anchoring off San Francisco - way out in the bay

Big ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Walkin' to the Zoo - cold - lonely and gray

Big Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Locked up in chains - no longer happy - or gay

Big' Ol' Gray Ol' - *Elephante'*

[Picture]

Top Hat Wombat

Spending his nights on the town
A dapper marsupial - at that
He's fat - and furry - and round
Debonair Wombat - in the top hat -

[Picture]

Where kangaroos hop up and around
Top Hat Wombat scampers low and fast
Where cute koalas like to hang upside down
You'll find our Top Hat Wombat -

[Picture]

Where platypus swims in a blue billabong
Top Hat Wombat digs holes in the ground
Where kookaburra laughs a crow caw song
Top Hat Wombat makes nary a sound -

[Picture]

Livin' in Australia - a bonzer place
Top Hat Wombat is the wizard of Oz
Where wallabies bounce with speed and grace
Top Hat Wombat twirls a cane - 'cause -

[Picture]

Top Hat Wombat struts his stuff downtown
And smiles as he tips his too-tall top hat
Top Hat Wombat is a friend - an Aussie clown
Everyone loves Top Hat Wombat - in -

[Picture]

Top Hat - Hat - Top Hat - Hat - Top Hat - Hat - Top Hat

Coo - Coo - Kookaburra

Our tired swagman falls asleep

Under a coolibah tree

And awakes to mad laughter

Ha-Ha Ha-Ha wild and free -

[Picture]

Coo-Coo Kookaburra

High above on one tree limb

Cocks her head to one side and

Looks down - down at him -

[Picture]

Coo-Coo Kookaburra

Flutters down from high on her perch

And flies around and around his head before

Landing with a lurch -

[Picture]

Coo-Coo Kookaburra

Perches on our swagman's knee

And sings - "Laugh my Aussie mate and

You'll laugh along with me" -

[Picture]

Coo-Coo Kookaburra

Laughs out her crow caw

Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha Ha-Ha

[Picture]

The Great Gray Ghost

when you hear *Bumpity - Bumpity - Bump*

On a cold and windy - moonless night

Who's that goin' *Lumpity - Lumpity - Lump*

Around the corner - out of sight -

[Picture]

Could it be your - imagination

Or just the wind in the trees

Or could it be - *The Great Gray Ghost*

A-crawling in on his knees -

[Picture]

The Great Gray Ghost hides in your toy box

And swims on top - above your pool

The Great Gray Ghost hides under your table

Ol' Gray Ghost knows how to fool -

[Picture]

The Great Gray Ghost hides 'round a-corner
The Great Gray Ghost hides under your bed
The Great Gray Ghost hides in the morning
And jumps out - at night - instead -

[Picture]

Remember -

The Great Gray Ghost can't live in sunlight
The Great Gray Ghost's afraid of Mother's broom
The Great Gray Ghost will run away from Father
It only knows how to loom -

[Picture]

If you see a gray aberration
A-comin' out of the gloom
Hurry - and duck under your covers
The Great Gray Ghost has entered your room

[Picture]

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing is a hairy hunch

Growlin' when he's 'round and about

Tryin' to catch us for lunch - with

A-Whoop' - A-Holler' - And A-Shout!

[Picture]

Can't shoo him away with whisper

Or scare him away with shout

Or calling for help from Mother

Or runnin' away with a pout

[Picture]

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing shakes and shakes

When the dog barks

And runs from a pussy cat's meow

He covers his ears from

The song of a lark

And his eyes from the milk of a cow -

[Picture]

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing can't find us

When we're safely in our bed

When we hide under the covers

Ol' Hairy Red Thing has to play dead -

[Picture]

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing can't give us a fright

If we keep our eyes shut tight -

[Picture]

Oh my

We mustn't peek out -

[Picture]

A Great Big Ol' Hairy Red Thing

will jump out

and

Grab us by our snout!

[Picture]

Leggety - Peggety - Bird

Brave little one leggety peggety bird
All alone - no friends at your side
Hoppin' alone - away from your herd
Climbin' sand dunes - avoidin' the tide -

[Picture]

Balancing on one leggety - peggety
Hoppity - hoppity - over the sand
Ahead of each wave - leggety - peggety
All alone - least of the sandpiper clan -

[Picture]

One hop - Two hop - Three hop - A
Four hop - Five hop - Six hop - B
Seven hop - Eight hop - Nine hop - C
Ten hop - Eleven hop - Twelve hop D -

[Picture]

Hoppity - hoppity - stoppin' to see
Peck - peck - peckin' at the sand
Fly - fly - fly - fly away free
One up - Two down - followed by Three -

[Picture]

Fly - fly - fly - fly away high
Swoop - swoop - swoop - down toward the sand
Skim - skim - skim - skim waves blue as sky
Brave little one leggety - peggety - friend -

Bunny Squirrel

Sits in the dew
Her tail's only
An inch or two -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Scampers up our Oak tree
With all four feeter
On our bird feeder -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Stuffs her cheeks - with
'Nough seed for weeks -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Swings 'round and around
Her friends are downtown -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Smiles at Pretty Missy
Sits up all prissy -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Twitches a pointy nose
Dances on her toes -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Sees Snicker Snake slither
Under the garden gate
Pretty Missy does too
And she says shoo -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel
Gives her tail a twirl
As Snicker Snake slithers
Away from these dithers -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel

Runs through the flowers

Twirls her tail for hours -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel

Wearin' a wild flower crown

She's climbin' down -

Bunny Squirrel

Curls up in her nest

For a long night's rest -

[Picture]

Bunny Squirrel

With Stubby and Myrl

Her tail she does a-twirl

A-happy - happy - Bunny Squirrel

[Picture]

Crocodile Kyle

Floating silently with cunning and guile
Deep down - in one black stump - billabong
Searching for dinner with a sharp tooth smile
Crocodile Kyle glides - glides quietly along -

[Picture]

Motionless - floatin' - out in the bush
Crocodile Kyle hides a sneaky snoot smile
Waiting for wallaby - or a playful platypus
One stomach clock ticks in crafty ol' Kyle -

[Picture]

Dining on duck - under one hot sun bake
Searching for fish - for a second course
Cleaning his teeth with one garden rake
Kyle's hungry enough - to eat one horse -

[Picture]

Dingo dog - wanders by for one drink
Kyle glides over to billabong's edge
Eyes popping up - with nary a blink
He braces his feet on an underwater ledge -

[Picture]

Billabong boils as Kyle pushes off
Jaws open wide - to snatch one dingo dog
But dingo dodges with a-bark and a-scoff
As Crocodile Kyle chomps down on one log

[Picture]

Penthouse Pussycats

Penthouse Pussycats - way up in the sky

Oh My - Oh My -

[Picture]

Sigh - oh - me

Two - not three

Penthouse Pussycats do I see

Not Alley Cats three -

[Picture]

Two Penthouse Pussycats

Not wistful Alley Cats

Chase after one mouse

Up in their penthouse -

[Picture]

They might be him-a-layin

But I'm not a-sayin'

What country they're from

'Cause they're too much fun -

[Picture]

Top of the mark Penthouse Pussycats

Not wily ol' Alley Cats

Live up in the sky

Oh My - Oh My

[Picture]

Alley Cat

Alley Cat - Alley Cat
All covered with soot
From head to her foot -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat
Takes her catnap
On Pretty Missy's lap -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat
Ruffles her fur
And rumbles a-purr -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat
Chin whiskers - this
Chin whiskers - that -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat
White feet and underbelly
Furry soft - not smelly -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat
Arches her back high
It's the fourth of July -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Thinks Pretty Missy

Is perky and prissy -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Leads Pretty Missy's Band

A baton in her hand -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Scampers though the crowd

Meowing - out loud -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Leads Pretty Missy's Band

Into the Grandstand -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Sits on Pretty Missy's Lap

To a drummer's - Rat-a-Tat-Tat -

[Picture]

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Rat-a-Tat-Tat

Alley Cat - Alley Cat

Rat-a-Tat-Tat

[Picture]

Sea Turtle

A great green movin' reef
With flippers - tail and head
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead -

[Picture]

Swimmin' back to Florida sands
Resting underwater - sunup to sunset
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead -

Swimmin' - swimmin' toward her nest -

[Picture]

Stayin' offshore till midnight
Climbin' a dune in the moonlight -

[Picture]

Stopping - floppin' - high on the dune
Diggin' - diggin' - down deep - a nest
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead -

No time to rest -

[Picture]

Coverin' - coverin' - eggs under sand
Flipper prints amblin' out to the surf
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead -

Swimmin' free -

[Picture]

Baby turtles hatch under the sand dune
And crawl out - scamperin' toward the moon
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead -

[Picture]

Baby turtles swim - swim away free
To the safety of the sea
Turtle - Turtle - Loggerhead

[Picture]

Dingo Dog

Douglas Dingo whistles an Outback - tune

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

Trotting under an Alice Spring's - moon

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

Lookin' for tucker to feed to his - pack

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

Stubs his paws on a jolly swagman's - sack

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

Swagman laughs - "Matilda's tucker for two"

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

"I'll share my tucker with dingo dog - too"

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

"Not enough for your pack - dingo dog"

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

"Hardly enough for a black stump frog"

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do -

[Picture]

Douglas dingo barks - a happy thank you

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do

[Picture]

Takes tucker home for his family of two

Doodaly - Doodaly - Do

Kira

Happiest marsupial - high up in a coolibah tree

Kira Koala Bear sleeps in - way after three

[Picture]

And then wakes up for a eucalyptus leaf snack

After eatin' her tucker - takes a practice nap -

[Picture]

Kira rests in a tree - above a billabong - deep

As a jolly swagman's song lulls her back to sleep

[Picture]

He's resting in the shade of Kira's coolibah tree

And picking up sticks to cook his billy-boil tea -

[Picture]

This jolly swagman takes a rest from everyday toil

Lightin' a camp fire to cook his - billy-boil

[Picture]

Kira's nose twitches - "What's that on the breeze"

Kira sniffs - at smoke floatin' up in her tree -

[Picture]

Kira drops one branch down on the swagman's toes
The jolly swagman looks up - scratching his nose

[Picture]

He squints upward - high into Kira's coolibah tree
"Why'd you drop that coolibah branch down on me" -

[Picture]

Kira twitches her nose at smoke from his fire
He slaps his leg - "Didn't know it was dire"

[Picture]

He opens his sack and sings to Kira up her tree
"Why don't you come a-waltzin' Matilda with me"

Gofor' Turtle

Is large and round - and round
Along the edge of the palmetos
She is found - found - found -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle
Lives deep - deep - deep and warm
Inside her cozy - cozy burrow
Hidin' from - harm - harm - harm -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle
Around and about ten - every day
Sticks out her nose to see if she'll
Come outside or stay - stay - stay -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle
Crawls up - up - up out of her burrow
And looks around - around for Aunt Myrtle
A round - round - round - gopher turtle -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle
Naps under the mornin' sun - sun - sun
Wakes to Aunt Myrtle's nudge - nudge - nudge
It's time for gopher turtle fun - fun - fun -

Gofor' Turtle

Ambles over to Mr. Frog's bog - bog - bog
Doin' a-zig - zig and a-zag - zag and a-zog
By Mr. Frog - perched on his log - log - log -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle

Nudges Mr. Frog on his log - log - log
Mr. Frog clears his throat - throat - throat
Jumps down - lets out a croak - croak - croak -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle

Hears Old Dog's bark - bark - bark
Pulls in her tail and toes - toes - toes
Sniffs the air with her nose - nose - nose -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle

Smells vanilla and spies Pretty Missy
And pucker - pucker - puckers' up
For Pretty Missy's kiss - kiss - kissy -

[Picture]

Gofor' Turtle

And Aunt Myrtle

Are all starry eyed

And flirtle

Minnie

Tiniest manatee in her family

Finnin' and strokin' 'round

Middlin' Minnie Manatee -

[Picture]

Swimmin' under river and sea

Seven hundred pounds of clown

Munchkin Minnie Manatee -

[Picture]

Pokin' her head above water to see

Boats sailing round on the sound

Mindful Minnie Manatee -

[Picture]

Grazin' on sea grass free

Doesn't see the boat comin' down

Muddled Minnie Manatee -

[Picture]

Tumblin' spinnin' and flee

From the propeller's grindin' sound

Mangled Minnie Manatee -

[Picture]

Boaters runnin' fast and free

Mindless mass of sub-humanity

Floating motionless on the sea

Mauled Minnie Manatee

Right-on Whale

Divin' down - down deep under the sea

Searchin' for anchovies and krill -

[Picture]

Frolickin' - rollin' - spinnin' with glee

Happy - Oh Happy - Oh Happy - Right Whale -

[Picture]

Swimmin' up - up - to the top of the sea

Bubblin' bubbles frothy as uncapped ale -

[Picture]

Spoutin' a stream of water - high up to the sky

Happy - Oh Happy - Oh Happy - Right Whale -

[Picture]

Soundin' - shiverin' - air turnin' frosty

Snow's blowing in - on a noreast gale -

[Picture]

It's time - oh time - to migrate southward

Happy - Oh Happy - Oh Happy - Right Whale -

[Picture]

Swimmin' south - dodgin' one cruise ship

And an occasional boat - under sail -

[Picture]

Looking for others to share her migration

Happy - Oh Happy - Oh Happy - Right Whale -

[Picture]

Wallowin' in solitaire off Cape Canaveral

Lonely as a caged bird - locked up in jail -

[Picture]

Whalers have taken all her family -

Woebegone - Oh Woebegone - Oh Woebegone

Right Whale

Ol' Dog

Ol' Dog scratches and scrunches

And eats Pretty Missy's lunches

Then sleeps like a log

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Ol' Dog rolls round and round on the floor

And scratches and scrunches some more

Then trots out the door

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Ol' Dog jumps into a puddle of water

And splashes the neighbor's daughter

Then wags his tail

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Ol' Dog jumps a jog near Mr. Frog's bog

Mr. Frog jump - jump - jumps away

Doesn't want to get in Ol' Dog's way

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Ol' Dog nudges Mr. Frog's nose - legs and toes

Mr. Frog jump - jump - jumps into his bog

Ol' Dog follows him in - clear up to his chin

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Mr. Frog jumps - jumps - jumps out of his bog

With a croak - croak - croak in his throat

Dog paddles - dog paddles in Mr. Frog's bog

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Ol' Dog's all mucky and messy and barky and fessy

Tails hangin' down - his muzzle in a frown

Slinks away home for a pat and a comb -

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Dog barks at the door and stares down at the floor -

Needs a pucker up kissy from Pretty Missy

Pretty Missy does fess - "Ol' Dog you're a mess" -

"You're a silly Ol' Dog"-

[Picture]

Ol' Dog gives Pretty Missy

A pucker up wet kissy

Missy doesn't mind

Ol' Dog's being kind

He's a silly Ol' Dog -

[Picture]

Pretty Missy scratches his ears

Laughs until tears

'Cause

He's a silly Ol' Dog

[Picture]

Wilson

Wilson Wallaby's a miniature 'roo

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Wearing glasses to look at the moon

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Wilson Wallaby jumps to a digery do

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Waltzes around a Matilda or two

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

A winsome marsupial on a walkabout

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Bouncing to never - never 'round and about

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Not a great boomer 'rooer loutish sort

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Wilson Wallaby just loves bein' short

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

A Wallaby with glasses will do just fine

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

'Cause Wilson Wallaby is one of a kind

Hoppity - Hoppity - Hop

[Picture]

Pitty-Pat

Gliding underwater in a blue billabong
You'll find our duckbilled web footed lass
An oviparous Aussie mammal in song and tale
Pitty-Pat Platypus - chock full of sass -

[Picture]

Pitty-Pat Platypus goes paddlin' along
Duckbill in front
Beavertail at end
Pitty-Pat Platypus is wet - sleek and long
In her altogether
A three part blend -

[Picture]

Lookin' for clams to crunch in her bill
Pokin' under stones and rocks - pretty lass
With billabong tucker she'll eat her fill
Then nap deep down in green billabong grass -

[Picture]

Pitty-Pat Platypus wakes up for a bo-peep
A pack of dingo dogs stop by for a drink

[Picture]

She swims and dives down - deep - deep -

[Picture]

Pitty-Pat Platypus - a careful - cautious lass
Waits for dingo dogs to drink their fill
Then sleeps deep in the green billabong grass

Snicker-Snake

Slithers in
Slithers out
Lookin' for squirrels
To snatch in his snout -

[Picture]

Snicker-Snake
Glides through the grass
With ease
As squirrels chatter
"Where are your knees"

[Picture]

Snicker-Snake
Sees Pretty Missy
Coils up in fright
At the sight
Of Pretty Missy cryin'

[Picture]

Snicker-Snake
His forked tongue flyin'
Didn't mean to scare
A single hair -

[Picture]



Snicker-Snake
Uncoils and hisses
Some sneaky snake kisses -

[Picture]

Snicker-Snake
Slither - slither - slither
Slither - slither - side winds
Under Pretty Missy's garden gate -

[Picture]

Snicker-Snake
Can't hardly wait
To hiss to his mate
About his escape -



[Picture]

Slither

Slither
Slither
Slither
Slither
Slither

Snicker - Snicker - Snicker - Snicker - Snicker-Snake



Tail of a Tail

What a wonderful thing is a monkey's tail
Held high in the air when runnin' around

[Picture]

Or - used as a whip to knock over a pail

[Picture]

Or - to keep ones hind end off the wet ground -

[Picture]

Wouldn't it be fun

If we had one -

[Picture]

We could snatch a pencil from teacher's desk

[Picture]

Or - write a letter while we're at rest -

[Picture]

A tail would be great to chase

When we've nothing to do all alone

[Picture]

Dizzily spinnin' 'round second base

[Picture]

Or - gallopin' freely toward home -

[Picture]

We could balance on a balance beam

[Picture]

Or - swing on uneven bars

[Picture]

We could tumble about with speed and grace

[Picture]

Or - even open Mother's jars -

[Picture]

But - a monkey's tail

Under our coat or - dress

Would stick out

Now - wouldn't that be a mess

[Picture]



Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

Wearing a monocle making quite a to-do

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Lording it over all the animals in the zoo

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Takin' his tea every afternoon - at three

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

And sometimes a crumpet - for you and - me

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Singin' his song in a language called 'Strine

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Bouncin' to Brisbane - takin' his jolly old time

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Boundin' around the Outback - escapin' from a zoo

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Tall - handsome a great gray - boomer kangaroo

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

Removin' his monocle for a bo-peep - or two

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

No worries mate - just a harrumph - or two

Burlington Bartholomo 'Roo

[Picture]

FIN

Owen - James Owen