

LIST POEMS

What to Do in Rudd, Iowa

Go to Hoover's Hatchery and watch eggs hatch.
Count the drops of water leaking from the water tower
within one hour and calculate
how much water will be lost in one year.
Try to drive on every street in town in under three
minutes.
See how fast you can go over the railroad tracks
without hitting your head on the roof of the car.
Try to guess the weight of the next load of corn or
beans brought into the elevator.
Watch the firemen polish the fire trucks.
Try to find ten people who pronounce Rudd
incorrectly.
On garbage days you can see how many people use
brown bags
and how many use black bags.
Go to the creek and count fish.
Go to the store and watch the trucks unload.
-- John Grosshoeme with
K. McCullough (high school)

A HISTORY OF THE PETS

◇
Butch, a black cocker spaniel, collected
stinks, dirt, and open wounds into which our
father poured gentian violet. Did not
come back one morning. A brown and white mutt
—I don't recall its name—was shot by our
mother, beheaded, and pronounced rabid
by health folks who provided all five of us
with fourteen Friday nights of shots. There was
Hooker, half-Persian cat who'd claw your back
side through the open backed kitchen chairs and swing
by his hooks till you pulled him loose. Rabbits.
Small possums loose in the house. Short-Circuit,
affectionate cat that walked crooked, that'd been
BB-shot in the head. Goat. Skunk. Some snakes.

David Huddle

Things To Do If You Are the Rain

Be gentle.
Hide the edge of buildings.
Plip, plop in puddles.
Tap, tap, tap against the rooftops.
Sing your very own song!
Make the grass green.
Make the world smell special.
Race away on a gray cloud.
Sign your name with a rainbow.

-Bobbi Katz

Things That Drive Me Crazy

people who talk too much
people who laugh too much
people who laugh too loud
parents who worry too much
my friends
boyfriends
fear
acting in the wrong
acting like someone you're not
banks
supermarkets
people who can't cook
missing school
having a mean teacher
my brother throwing pennies at me in the night
too many lights on in the house
drugs
deep water
rubber ducks
mixed vegetables

—Yolanda Spivey, sixth grade.

List Poems

Home Movies

Shot of the baby with the beagle at the summer place.
Shot of the children with Grandpa in the rowboat.
Pan to the barn on the hill across the lake.
Close-up of Grandma in her big straw hat.
Shot of the hammock with Daddy dozing in it.
Shot of the road with Mommy walking down it.
Watch as she turns, waving at the future,
smiling and waving
in the honeydew light.

-George Bogin

Things That Go Away & Come Back Again

Thoughts
Airplanes
Boats
Trains
People
Dreams
Animals
Songs
Husbands
Boomerangs
Lightning
The sun, the moon, the stars
Bad Weather
The seasons
Soldiers
Good luck
Health
Depression
Joy
Laundry

*in the middle of
(breaks etc) and long)*

-Anne Waldman

LIST POEMS

1. MEMORIES I remember... earliest memories (preschool)
family, friends, neighbors
school
travel
pets
toys and clothes
accidents
happy/sad times
proud/funny moments
being frightened/lost/embarrassed
losing things
dreams

2. WHEN I'M ALONE...

3. RULES, RESOLUTIONS, SPELLS, INSTRUCTIONS & RECIPES...
 - How to make...it snow, the rain end, make someone love you
 - How to behave at a fancy party
 - How to make a perfect sandwich
 - School as it ought to be

4. THINGS TO DO...
 - "Things to do in the Rain"
 - "What to do in Rudd, Iowa"
 - ...while waiting for the school bus
 - ...while waiting for the phone to ring

5. POEM OF... beauty
courage
lost hopes
sadness
stillness,
quietness
light

6. THINGS THAT DRIVE ME CRAZY

5

List Poems

Little Things

David, grade 6

A crumb lying on the table
A pin in a pile of straw in the stable
Shredded paper flying through the air
A fuzz of carpet fallen to the stair
A used piece of chalk
A flea
The last leaf on a tree
A button in the street
Flakes of snow or sleet
You conscience talking to you
Sprinkles in your ice cream at the zoo
A splinter in your toe
A feather from a crow
A nest of baby spiders
A gnat that circles around the light
A string falling from a kite
A paper clip
A sliver of soap to make you slip
A fragile pencil lead
A though in the back of your head

When I am alone I . . .

think about my life
it's gone up in smoke
cry
listen for my cat
hear music play
hold my breath
scream
sleep
never dream
sing along
clean
sneak a puff
hold my breath
watch the news
have some coffee
fix a meal
do the dishes
sweep the floor
strum my guitar
mess up and start again

Things My Sister does That I Hate

Sam, grade 8

Asks "what if" questions
Plays multiple boyfriends with her Barbies
Listen to Meat Loaf
Lies to my mom
Bites her lower lip right before she punches me
Insists that the hall light and the bathroom light stay on
Eats all the cookie dough ice cream
Throws small plastic things in the heater so it rattles
Complains about my much homework she has
when I have twice as much
Waits til my mom is around before crying
Plots against me
Uptalks
Dresses not her age
Says I hit her really hard when I walk by her by accident
Lives in my house
Tries to be my mom
Sings badly
Pushes me "accidentally" when she's angry
Tattle tales
Digs her nails into my arm
Feeds pizza crusts to Nacho
Exists

Things That Make Me Look

Orange hair
bad perfume
a really loud girl
a praying child
tall shoes
short old men
little time
lots of stars
old pants
new cars
ugly noses
good hair
kissing cousins
scraped lenses
carpet stains in bad bathrooms

Rachel, 8

Ollie, 8