

## Birdfoot's Grampa

-Joseph Bruchac III

The old man  
must have stopped our car  
two dozen times to climb out  
and gather into his hands  
the small toads blinded  
by our lights and leaping,  
live drops of rain.

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The rain was falling,  
a mist about his white hair  
and I kept saying  
you can't save them all,  
accept it, get back in  
we've got places to go.

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But, leathery hands full  
of wet brown life,  
knee deep in the summer  
roadside grass,  
he just smiled and said  
they have places to go to too.

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## A Choice of Weapons

-Phyllis McGinley

Sticks and stones are hard on bones,  
Aimed with angry art,  
Words can sting like anything,  
But silence breaks the heart.

## Giant Thunder

-James Reeves

Giant Thunder, striding home,  
Wonders if his supper's done.

"Hag wife, hag wife, bring me bones!"  
They are not done," the old hag moans.

"Not done? Not done?" the giant roars,  
And heaves the old wife out of doors.

Cries he, "I'll have them, cooked or not!"  
And overturns the cooking pot.

He flings the burning coals about'  
See how the lightning flashes out!

Upon the gale the old hag rides,  
The clouded moon for terror hides.

All the world with thunder quakes;  
Forest shudders, mountain shakes.

From the cloud the rainstorm breaks;  
Village ponds are turned to lakes;  
Every living creature wakes.

Hungry giant, lie you still!  
Stamp no more from hill to hill—  
Tomorrow you shall have your fill.

## The Porcupine

Any hound a porcupine nudges  
Can't be blamed for harboring grudges,  
I know one hound that laughed all winter  
At a porcupine that sat on a splinter.

## Jabberwocky

-Lewis Carroll

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

'Beware the Jabberwock, my son!  
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!  
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun  
The frumious Bandersnatch!

He took his vorpal sword in hand:  
Long time the manxome foe he sought--  
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,  
And stood awhile in thought.

And as in uffish thought he stood,  
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,  
Came whiffing through the tulgey wood,  
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through  
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!  
He left it dead, and with its head  
He went galumphing back.

'And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?  
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!  
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!  
He chortled in his joy.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

## Particle man

By John Linnell (TMBG)

Particle man, particle man  
Doing the things a particle can  
What's he like? It's not important  
Particle man

Is he a dot, or is he a speck?  
When he's underwater does he get wet?  
Or does the water get him instead?  
Nobody knows, Particle man

Triangle man, Triangle man  
Triangle man hates particle man  
They have a fight, Triangle wins  
Triangle man

Universe man, Universe man  
Size of the entire universe man  
Usually kind to smaller man  
Universe man

He's got a watch with a minute hand,  
Millenium hand and an eon hand  
When they meet it's a happy land  
Powerful man, universe man

Person man, person man  
Hit on the head with a frying pan  
Lives his life in a garbage can  
Person man

Is he depressed or is he a mess?  
Does he feel totally worthless?  
Who came up with person man?  
Degraded man, person man

Triangle man, triangle man  
Triangle man hates person man  
They have a fight, triangle wins  
Triangle man

