

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 5
by our lights and leaping,
live drops of rain.

The rain was falling,
a mist about his white hair
and I kept saying 10
you can't save them all,
accept it, get back in
we've got places to go.

But, leathery hands full
of wet brown life, 15
knee deep in the summer
roadside grass,
he just smiled and said
they have places to go to too.

I'm Nobody

-Emily Dickerson

I'm nobody! Who are you?
Are you nobody, too?
Then there's a pair of us—don't tell!
They'd banish us, you know.

How dreary to be somebody!
How public, like a frog
To tell your name the livelong day
To an admiring bog!

maggie and milly and molly and may

-e. e. cummings

maggie and milly and molly and may
went down to the beach(to play one day)
and Maggie discovered a shell that sang
so sweetly she couldn't remember her troubles,and

milly befriended a stranded star
whose rays five languid fingers were;

and molly was chased by a horrible thing
which raced sideways while blowing bubbles:and

may came home with a smooth round stone
as small as a world and as large as alone.

For whatever we lose(like a you or a me)
it's always ourselves we find in the sea.

Little Things

-James Stephens

Little things, that run, and quail,
And die, in silence and despair!

Little things, that fight, and fail,
And fall, on sea, and earth, and air!

All trapped and frightened little things,
The mouse, the coney, hear our prayer!

As we forgive those done to us,
--The lamb, the linnet, and the hare--

Forgive us all our trespasses,
Little creatures, everywhere!

in Just-

-e. e. cummings

in Just-
spring when the world is mud-
luscious the little
lame balloonman

whistles far and wee

and eddieandbill come
running from marbles and
piracies and it's
spring

when the world is puddle-wonderful

the queer
old balloonman whistles
far and wee
and bettyandisbel come dancing

from hop-scotch and jump-rope and

it's
spring
and
the

goat-footed

balloonMan whistles
far
and
wee