

A Selection of Short Poems

by Nathan Hartswick

*I heard tell the author said,
"Don't read this in your head - instead,
Read aloud to everyone,
It makes the story much more fun."*

Watch Race

I lined up 16 watches
And set them all with care
With every hand at 12 o'clock
(I wanted to be fair.)
I put in brand new batteries
And buffed each shining face
I simply couldn't wait to see
Which watch would win the race.
I waved the flag and off they went
A-ticking with such speed
But as the race went on I saw
That no one took the lead.
Round and round the watch hands spun
I shouted, cheered and leapt
But nothing seemed to change a thing
And neck-and-neck they kept.
I stopped them all at six o'clock
And though I don't know why
As crazy as it sounds, I swear
It was a perfect tie.

Sweet Sarah Sue

I'll thpeak to you in whithperth low
I'll thout from up on high
"How much I love you, Tharah Thue,"
Tho thweet that you will thigh.
I'll thweep you off your feet, my Thue,
And thing a melody,
A thpethal thong I wrote for you
An oputh! - wait and thee.
I'll tell you all my thecrets, Thue,
Tho tender and tho thoft,
Jutht don't athk my mouth to thare them
Till thith Novocaine wearth off.

Ordinary Circus

At the Ordinary Circus
They've got Ordinary Things
Like a dog who wags his tail
And a chicken with two wings.
A graceful red trapeze that soars
A foot above the ground
And an Ordinary Strongman
Who can lift a dozen pounds.
The Ordinary Tamer thwarts
A household tabby cat
And the Ordinary Clown is just
My uncle in a hat.
But I shall see the Circus!
I will be there in a snap!
Or maybe I'll go home instead
And take a little nap.

Too Much Stuff

I have more rings than fingers, and
I have more shoes than feet
I have more hats than heads, I think
And three more chairs than seats.
So I will give away these things
To Anastasia Kline
Who has three hands, eleven feet
Two heads and four behinds.

Eyesight

My Cyclops can see more than I
When all is said and done
For he can see my two eyes but
I only see his one.

One More Thing

I put on my best dress shoes
And put on my dress hat
I put on my new dress socks
And said, "Well, that is that."
But as I walked on out the door
I felt a breeze - oh yes...
There's one more thing that I forgot—
I'll go put on the dress.

All Backwards

If we forget to rewind the tape
They'll say that it isn't rewind
So why should I say that you should have "reminded" me?
Shouldn't the word be "remound?"

Food Fight

The sugar got mad at the lemon
For being so frightfully sour
The water got steamed at the sugar
Who was just as dry as the flour.
The milk called the dozen eggs "chicken!"
Yelling, "we'd lick the salt in a brawl!"
Then they jumped in a bowl in my kitchen
To settle it once and for all.
Flour was flyin', sugar was spillin',
Milk was all over the place.
The eggs cracked their shells and jumped in
And they all mixed themselves into paste.
The salt and the lemon teamed up
To season the fight just a tad
And I put them all in the oven
And baked the best cookies that I've ever had.