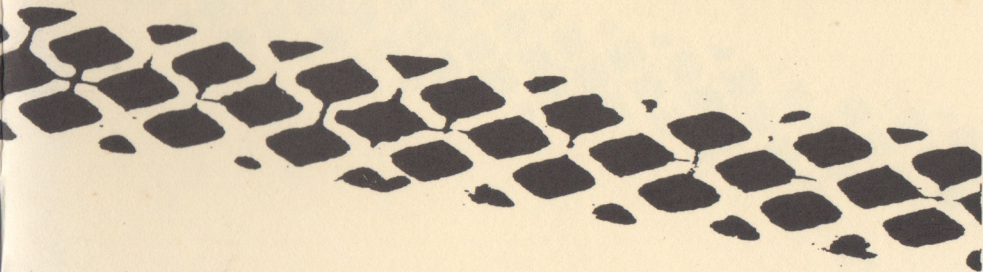


COASTING THROUGH PUDDLES

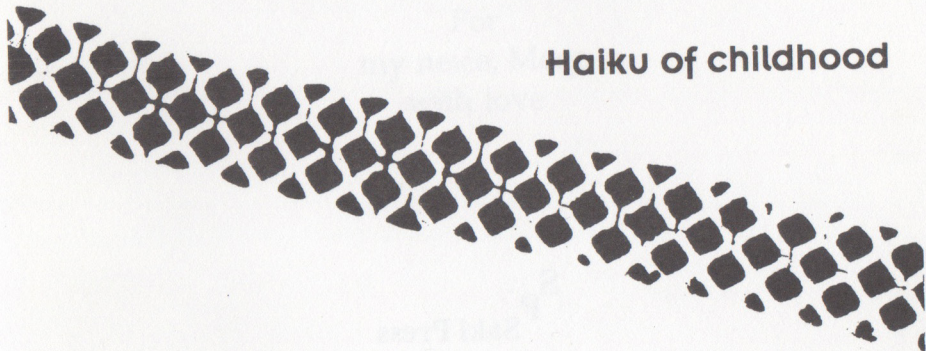
Haiiku of childhood



Robert Major

COASTING THROUGH PUDDLES

Haiku of childhood




by
Robert Major

S_P
Saki Press

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For
my neice, Mary,
with love



FORWARD

*Together again
recalling times in childhood...
pauses as we laugh*

Childrens' musical;
some tulips and butterflies
turn the wrong way 'round

Shiny red rainboots ...
he goes out of his way
to stomp through puddles

Children seeking them
sheltered from the March wind ...
first dandelions

Standing on tiptoe
she offers us her bouquet ...
wilting dandelions

To the child's delight ...
the homemade kite soars upward
tugging at its string

Coming home from school —
she steps over every crack
humming to herself

Easter egg hunt;
guiding the steps of the toddler
who hasn't found any

Heads close together
they count to the last penny ...
tots buying candy

Bluegrass festival;
while we sit on bales of hay—
toddlers twirl and dance

Caught up in her play—
we drink the just-pretend tea
sitting cross-legged

On the village green,
toddler in quick steps
runs rings around his dad

The fisherman's son
at the back of the classroom ...
carving small rowboats

Across the lake, Taps,
and then the final echo ...
the stillness of after

Rising in the wind,
drifting over the village—
some child's red balloon

Crouched in a circle...
children wait for a turtle
to thrust out its head

The boys pitch their tent
ten steps from the kitchen door ...
first time camping out

Parents ride again—
bungling about in circles
on their childrens' bikes

Atop the seawall,
children wave at their shadows ...
the shadows wave back

Playing hide-and-seek
on a long summer's evening ...
called home one by one

Evening of the Fourth;
buying fireworks upstreet
at reduced prices

Along dead-end street—
children await the return
of the ice-cream man

Coasting through puddles
feet out to avoid the splash ...
safe to the other side

Child holds out eggcup
emptied shell turned down. Grandma
... completely fooled

Reading fairytale
for the third time ... grandpa caught
skipping paragraphs

Intent on carving,
she makes a face ... worthy of
her jack-o'-lantern

Little witches out
long before twilight ... black cat
stares with open eyes

Wind rustles dry leaves;
goblins and ghosts haunt the dark
moaning for candy

Startled in the night;
hanging about the bedpost ...
a ghost in the dark

On the school playground,
worn a bit smoother today ...
a glacial boulder

Playing touch-football
by the war memorial ...
first names like our own

Last of appointments
at the dentist ... down the stairs
two steps at a time

As the freight passes,
child and the engineer wave—
each wending homeward

Early dusk falling—
children in the back entry
stomp snow from their boots

Children tucked in bed;
amused by shadow rabbits
just before lights out

Snowy Christmas Eve;
children drifting off to sleep
listen for sleighbells

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bottle rockets

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Paper Wasp (Australia)

Penumbra

RAW NerVZ (Canada)

Starfish

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The author has been writing haiku since 1990. He recently served two years as the Regional Coordinator for the Northwest Region of the Haiku Society of America. He is a retired editor from the University of Washington's Office of Publications.

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