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A Boy

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A Boy

There was a boy
Who used to hunt tadpoles
In the filthy ponds
Of the yellow-green spring woods
Just outside the city limits,
Laughing all the while;
Or walk with a sandwich
Sealed in a little brown bag
To the deserted circus grounds-
An ice-encrusted late March meadow-
And have a lonely picnic there,
Thrilled by the air of expectancy,
Pretasting the cotton candy
That would arrive sometime about July.

He is gone now,
That innocent boy;
Only a memory
Written on the hearts of one or two.
And a lifetime from now
Who will remember the enchanted lad?
Who used to laugh at speckled tadpoles
As they hopped away from him.
Who used to search
The deserted circus grounds of March,
Alone and happy.

THOMAS McKAGUE