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Your Favourite Things

When the dog bites,
When the bee stings,
When I'm feeling sad,
I look at this list of your favourite things
But they all drive me quite mad!

I hate soggy roses, and can't abide kittens.
I'd rather have chilblains than wear woollen mittens.
Brown paper makes gifts look cheap, so does twine.
(Use gift-wrapping, please, if that's meant to be mine!)

I fall off ponies, get pimples from strudels.
Next to dim sims is the right place for noodles.
A wild goose would *honk* with the moon on its wing.
(Ornithology, obviously, isn't your thing!)

Girls in blue sashes deserve fifty lashes.
Snow in one's eyes could cause nasty car crashes.
Silver white winters make people get croupy.
Your favourite things are decidedly loopy!

When the dog bites,
When the bee stings,
When I need a trained nurse,
I'll simply *forget* all your favourite things
So that I don't feel much WORSE!

Robin Klein (b. 1936 Australia)

Drowning in Wheat

They'd been warned
on every farm
that playing
in the silos
would lead to death.
You sink in wheat.
Slowly. And the more
you struggle the worse it gets.
'You'll see a rat sail past
your face, nimble on its turf,
and then you'll disappear.'
In there, hard work
has no reward.
So it became a kind of test
to see how far they could sink
without needing a rope
to help them out.
But in the midst of play
rituals miss a beat – like both
leaping in to resolve
an argument
as to who'd go first
and forgetting
to attach the rope.