By Dory Zatuchni

Stoop tag! Run around the bends!
Jump rope! Hopscotch! Hide and seek!
Children, my friends.
Competition! Society! Woes!
Wars! Politics! Business!
Adults, my foes.

My world was so beautiful as a child. It was the sun and the moon and the stars. It was the flowers, the grass, and the trees. It was so vast and immense and filled with adventure.

But what happened to this big, wide, wonderful world? Did it disappear as I grew older? Did it vanish from my mind as I developed into a mature adult? Where did it go?

Children! Purity! Innocence unfurled!
Love! Sincerity! Honesty!
Compassion, my world.
Anti-Semitism! Discrimination!
Hatred! Confusion! Strife!
Ugliness, my life.

I lived in the “bad section of town.” The sidewalks were uprooted. The papers clung against our windows. All the homes were clustered together. But, they were our homes and we were proud of them. Negro children played with white children, Italians played with Jews, immigrants frolicked with native Americas.

Then, one day my prised world shattered. Nigger! Wop! Spic! Jew-boy! Oh, how we cried that day.

Rain, rain go away.
Come again some other day!
Please.