

## PLAYFUL POEMS

RAY LOVE

Tucson, Arizona

### FOLDING CHAIR

A folding chair ate my brother,  
Swallowed him up in a minute.  
He was sitting in the chair  
Then tried to stand up in it.

### CLOWN

With a fire hose  
And a lightbulb nose  
He bursts upon the scene,  
Wearing crayon pants  
And a neon shirt  
That's blinking red and green.

He's the sawdust king  
In the center ring  
Who runs and romps and plays.  
He's every kid's dream  
Of endless ice cream  
And cotton candy days.

He's full of surprise,  
Has stars in his eyes,  
And joins in every prank.  
You laugh and you cheer  
Till no one can hear,  
And he's the one to thank.

He's a big balloon,  
A color cartoon,  
And cupid with a dart.  
He brings joy and fun  
And when he gets done,  
He steals away your heart.

## ALPHABET ZOO

A, B, C all the animals in the zoo.  
D, E, F you want to touch one or two  
G, H, I will help you find a few.  
J, K, L elephants like to be petted by you.  
M, N, O here comes a lion into view.  
P, Q, R you going to touch him too?  
S, T, U better count your fingers if you do!  
V, W, X extra meat is what they love to chew.  
Y don't we just go find a well-fed  
Z bra instead?

## FRECKLES

One hundred and one, one hundred and two...  
I'm counting the freckles I see on you.  
One hundred and three, one hundred and four...  
And I hope you don't mind that I'm keeping score.  
One hundred and five, one hundred and six...  
But counting freckles I like to do for kicks...  
One hundred and seven, one hundred and eight...  
You say counting freckles is something you hate.  
One hundred and nine, one hundred and...  
Hey, why are you slapping me on the hand?  
You know that's not a nice thing to do.  
I thought you said I could count on you.

## JUST ASKING

If a whippoorWILL  
WILL,  
And a peliCAN  
CAN,  
And a touCAN  
CAN,  
And a katyDID  
DID,  
And a cockaTOO  
TOO,  
Then should a flaminGO  
GO?

## HOW GREAT THOU ART

My sister likes my drawing.  
She just told me that she does.  
And it made me feel so good...  
Till she asked me what it was.

## IF MONEY GREW ON TREES

If money grew on trees  
And was picked just like fruit,  
Would you climb to the top  
And gather up the loot?

Would you stand by the tree  
With a sack in your hands  
And shake the money loose,  
Then catch it when it lands?

Would you wait for the bills  
To ripen and to fall  
So that you could be there  
To get them one and all?

Would you cut down the tree  
With an axe sharp as knives,  
And grab all the twenties  
And the tens and the fives?

If money grew on trees  
I know what I would do.  
I'd leave it where it is  
And share the lovely view.

## WATER WATER EVERYWHERE

When I drank water  
From the end of our hose  
Some got in my mouth...  
But most went up my nose!

WHY OUR CAT JUMPED STRAIGHT UP INTO THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Dad  
came  
down  
the  
stairs  
Christmas morning  
and  
turn  
ed  
on  
the  
switch  
which  
started  
the  
electric train  
P  
he had set U  
in a c  
e i the tree  
l r under  
c  
that  
he had  
chopped d  
o  
w  
n  
with  
an  
axe...

and  
there  
among  
the  
glitter  
and  
brightly-wrapped gifts  
at  
the  
bottom  
of  
the tree was  
our  
cat  
...asleep  
with his  
l o n g  
furry  
t a  
i  
so l  
innocently  
s t r e t c h e d  
out  
across  
the  
tracks!