

Notes from the poet

Here are three poems written in response to objects from a collection. In this case, the collection happens to be things that I own and treasure. The poems are quite different from each other. Here is a little bit about each one.

The first cat poem (no it's NOT a whale) plays with the idea of an object representing something that is alive, and highlights the way cats are both super drowsy and constantly alert.

A cupboard for dolls is a poem written about a little cupboard that my great great grandfather made for my great aunt. I like that this man, who worked as a blacksmith, took the time to make something small for his daughter. The last stanza generalises the experience of fathers throughout time finding ways to express their love no matter what circumstances they are in.

The last poem, Little Man is just funny and I wrote it as a reminder that poems can be funny and silly.

My favourite line is 'Glad that he could only hear half of what was said.' I like that line because it tells us that the little man is not to be pitied and for some people less talk is a good thing.

I hope that you enjoy writing some poems of your own.

Good luck

Helen

Cat

Helen Lawry

On you sleep,
forever at ease.
Yet your ears stand to attention

Just in case.



A cupboard for dolls

Helen Lawry

A cupboard made on a far-off day
by hands worn rough by work.

Hard hands gentle enough
to work small; measuring and cutting the timber
fixing on the tiny hinges

Even in hard times
poor men find ways
to make gifts for their daughters.



Little Man

Helen Lawry

There was a little man
Who only had one ear
So half of every word
Was all that he could hear.

He went to the shop
To buy himself some bread
Glad that he could only hear
Half of what was said.

Sometimes he wished
That he had half a nose
(When he took his sneakers off
and washed between his toes)