

THE BASIC PLOT

She was
excited.
No, she
was dead.

He was
happy.
No, he
was lost.

They were
tired.
No, they
were Polish.

They were
destroyed.
No, they
made
banana
bread.

GROWING UP POOR

Witchcraft
is a sorry
excuse
for a
science
project.

A TREMENDOUS CRY

Then the dead fish,
the insects in the garage,
everywhere torture. Then
cricket legs, etc.

In this environment
it was hard to earn
my needed degree
in radiology.

YOUNG SOMETHING

It's so beautiful
to be so beautiful,
but it's even more
beautiful to be
more beautiful.

DEAR GIRAFFE

Please
return my
copy of
Joseph Heller's
Catch 22.

THE TROUBLE WITH TROUBLE

After fights, after
kisses and screams,
after hospital visits
and karate class,
after novels,
local award shows
and dinner parties,
Trouble still sits where
it sat before.
Fanning itself
with a human hand.

12,000 MILES TO HELL

I understand that
the exact distance is
slightly lower,
but I'm rounding up!

THE ROSARY CALLED TIME

How clear it is
we will all die and
yet, how badly
I want to watch TV!

NO BOB

It was as if
Robert Frost
wrote a poem
about Robert Frost
writing a poem
and yet it was
also as if there
was no Robert
Frost, no poem,
no way out of this
persistent life.

PETER DAVIS

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