

Child Fear

Sour milk. Rotten eggs. Bumblebees.
Giant women. Falling through the privy hole.
The snake under the dock that bit my foot.
Snapping turtles. Electric fences. Howling bears.
The neighbor's big dog that tore apart
the black lamb. Oil wells. Train wheels.
Dentists and doctors. Hitler and Tōjō. Eye pain.
School superintendent with three gold teeth.
Cow's infected udder, angry draft horse.
School fire. Snake under hay bale. Life's end.

That your dead dogs won't meet you in heaven.

Jim Harrison