

Childs Play

By Marilyn Reeves

Five, ten, fifteen, twenty,
thirty, forty, sixty, eighty!
Run and hide so I can't see –
OLLY-OLLY OX IN FREE!

Was it Hide & Go Seek
or Seek & Go Hide?
Or was it Kick the Can?
Games of childhood lost to time;
To wispy bits of memory.

Who was that skinny kid
hanging by her knees?
It must have been somebody else
It couldn't have been me.

I could never run fast,
or catch or throw a ball,
So I was always chosen last
when team-mate names were called.

But I liked to swim and I liked to hike
And ride all over on my bike.
And I went round and round
on the merry-go-round.

But I came crashing down
when my friend got off
the see-saw.
I should have seen it coming
but I didn't see
what she saw.
Going down the hill on roller skates,
the kind you locked with a key,
Required a great deal of skill.

You'd be fine at the top
But then couldn't stop
When you got to the bottom
of the hill.

You had to turn quick
Run onto the grass!

Grab ahold of the tree
or fall on your ...
knee.

Who was that skinny kid
hanging by her knees?
It must have been somebody else
It couldn't have been me.