

# Pleasant Thoughts on Entering the Countryside

Adult Poetry Winner

by Ted Giles

We gazed at hedgerow, ditch and verge  
Where wild things fetched and carried:  
The ancient urge as buds emerge  
Persuades them to get married.

In Spring's new warmth, the sleepy mouse  
Had ended hibernation:  
He'd built a house and with his spouse  
Was busy with gestation.

Around the elm tree's leafy bole  
Where dragonflies were flying:  
The water vole had made a hole  
And would be multiplying.

In all their finery arrayed  
The birds were busy mating.  
The nests were made, the eggs were laid  
And they were incubating.

Once more the busy countryside  
Had helped me to recapture,  
The thrill when I'd made you my bride  
And we'd shared nature's rapture.

Now as we, too, become aware  
By your so slight distension,  
We must prepare to have our heir:  
We'll start on our extension.