

Less Able

by Gervase Phinn

(A poem for Claire Stainthorpe, Headteacher of St Hilda's C. E. School, Ampleforth)

He could not describe the beauty that surrounded him:
The soft green dale and craggy hills.
He could not spell the names
Of those mysterious places which he knew so well.
But he could snare a rabbit, ride a horse,
Repair a fence and dig a dyke,
Drive a tractor, plough a field,
Milk a cow and lamb a ewe,
Name a bird by a faded feather,
Smell the seasons and predict the weather,
That less able child could.

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