

## An Introvert in the Public School System

He said, "How do  
you write so many poems?"  
I replied, "I  
have suffered."  
He answered, "I have  
suffered also. I was  
in a Nazi Concentration Camp."  
I replied, "That is  
not enough. I was  
an introvert  
in the public school system."

## My Bird Imitations

While standing on the sidewalks  
of a middle-class neighborhood,  
I imitated the hoarse song  
of a crested flycatcher.  
I was arrested,  
but was released  
when the police learned  
it was against the law  
to cage a native American bird.

## The Lost George

George, where do you live  
since they, yes they, THEY  
built highway 4?

George  
you once lived by a park  
with mallards and white ducks;  
but now George,  
where do you live?  
There is only highway 4 now.  
Where are you, George?

## An Afternoon in Troy

Sat around the radio, talked about fire,  
earth, water, and air. Awaited the news  
about the wooden horse. We knew what  
was inside, but were afraid to tell.  
Had seen our cousins beat up Cassandra  
in the city square. Passed the time  
playing pin-ball machines. Our cousins  
were running up and down, yelling  
about a great gift and peace. They planned  
a cocktail party for the coming weekend.  
A rumor was circulated that Aeneas  
was catching a bus out of town.

— Duane Locke