

QUICKER THAN A SNAKE

A human's quicker
than a rattler.
Takes a muscular
heart & sixpack
of foolishness but
you can test it.
Just move pointed
finger slowly
towards its nose
until it strikes.

BRONCHOBUSTER

Bobby Barleese
an Indian kid
who became a
bronchobuster
beat me up
when I was 10
& bullied me
till I bloodied
his head with
baseball bat
waiting behind
him for my ups.

FEELING THE PRESSURE

Jim S feeling
the pressure
asked me
if I drilled
a hole right
here between
my eyes would
the pain go out?
Sure I said
but what about
infection? He
said he hadn't
thot of that.

NO BAD EXAMPLE

Ain't no Oakie
yet sound like
one. Ain't no
bad example yet
look like one.
Kids in my charge
know me &
accept me
even though
I mumble
& make mistakes.

BUFFER, GRETTEL & BEAR

Starting to lace
up boots dogs
think they know.
Tell them just
going to Safeway
for Sunday Bee
but they don't
listen jumping
barking whining
nuzzling me to load
them into truck.

LECTURE

Stopped lecturing on
intricacies of negative
space & asked yacking
student to be quiet.
I didn't say
anything, he said.
Hardly thinking I
slammed dictionary
on table under his
face hard enough
to sprain my thumb
& between clenched
teeth said you

hear that? Yes
he moaned.
I didn't
I whispered.

TRIP

Going to Chicago
scares Sue

worries she
won't make it
back alive
afraid of
what relatives
might think when
they find her
naughty photos
so burns them
before she leaves.

-- Phil Weidman

North Highlands CA

THINKING IT'S MONDAY, WAKING UP ALONE

uprooted as the birch
that fell, pulling what
held it with it,
a tangle of branches
wreckage beautiful
as the most dangerous
cells. woman in the
mirror turns 12, 24
is heading toward 40
like a car in a skid

CHICAGO WORLD'S FAIR 1893

a city of white
one woman walked
from Galveston to
Chicago along
the railroad
tracks some
sold their
kitchen stoves,
their burial
money to
be there

IT WAS LIKE

being stranded
on an ice cap
and seeing a
plane fly by
unaware of flags
or howling
or like
being the
man with a
heart attack
lying on con
crete seeing
his guard dog
growl fangs
keeping the
CPR at
bay