

Three Poems · *Warren Slesinger*

GARDEN

garden (gar.den) n-s 1. A plot for the cultivation of plants, i.e. fruits, flowers and vegetables for household use: a garden white and green with blossoming pole beans and cabbage butterflies above the rows of rounding leaves. 2. Of a familiar kind: a quote from the garden of a favorite poem. 3. Commonplace: your garden variety of that squatty amphibian with the warty skin; an interloper that sits on its tailless and terrestrial rump, its webbed toes spread in the freshly spaded dirt; the image of bug-eyed immobility until the mouth opens and the tongue is flipped with a snap of satisfaction at the tip. 4. The poem: a real toad in an imaginary garden: “guh-guh-gowrrrrrr.”

ANHEDONIA

Anhedonia n. 1. A county without a seat in rural Georgia. 2. The mountain view of home where the sense of things shimmers with absence, gray opaqueness and stillness. 3. The apprehension of a fall from a height or grace. 4. A lapsed Baptist’s suspicion that Jesus is really suspended on a lower case t. 5. The transcription of a sneeze in the snow and freezing rain by Roger Sauls, the local poet coming down with a headcold in the hard weather.