

SONJA JAMES

Monday at the Zoo

Heart, show me brave things:
the miracle of the captive elephant,
the tiny hoof of the gazelle.

That fat gorilla in the cage
weighs all of 400 pounds
& knows neither luck nor love.

I witness his overt struggle
with the attention he shuns.
His staring is a mode of talk,

& the zoo's buzzing with new gossip
spreading like honey on bread.
The panda is not pregnant, and no,

the ancient tortoise has not yet died.
We're all welcome to solve the riddle
of why the tiger roars upon the rock.