

The drop that tried to save the library at Alexandria.  
The first raindrop to land on the ark, on the nose of the  
figurehead that was Noah's wife.  
Edison's favorite raindrop; the one he kept in a test tube.  
The last drop Beethoven ever heard.

## THE TOADS 1975

A boy told me his father had been eaten by toads,  
a swarm of toads with foaming mouths and lidless eyes.

The war had just ended  
and not everyone was home.  
There was a dead pope.  
Helicopters still practiced parting trees.

The boy's father did lie in a polluted puddle,  
toads slept in his pockets,  
I learned this later.

Our neighbor made home movies from his cockpit  
and showed them to my father and me.  
I liked the sound the popcorn made in my head  
while a man on a bicycle hurried to cross  
what was surely an unimportant bridge  
on a simple river.