

# AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

A FREE COLUMN FOR NEWSPAPERS BY TED KOOSER, POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2006  
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## American Life in Poetry: Column 196

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One of the most effective means for conveying strong emotion is to invest some real object with one's feelings, and then to let the object carry those feelings to the reader. Notice how the gloves in this short poem by Jose' Angel Araguz of Oregon carry the heavy weight of the speaker's loss.

### Gloves

I made up a story for myself once,  
That each glove I lost  
Was sent to my father in prison

That's all it would take for him  
To chart my growth without pictures  
Without words or visits,

Only colors and design,  
Texture; it was ok then  
For skin to chafe and ash,

To imagine him  
Trying on a glove,  
Stretching it out

My open palm closing  
And disappearing  
In his fist.

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