

# 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 221

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Sometimes, it's merely the sound of a child's voice in a nearby room that makes a parent feel immensely lucky. To celebrate Father's Day, here's a joyful poem of fatherhood by Todd Boss, who lives in St. Paul, Minnesota.

### This Morning in a Morning Voice

to beat the froggiest  
of morning voices,  
my son gets out of bed  
and takes a lumpish song  
along—a little lyric  
learned in kindergarten,  
something about a  
boat. He's found it in  
the bog of his throat  
before his feet have hit  
the ground, follows  
its wonky melody down  
the hall and into the loo  
as if it were the most  
natural thing for a little  
boy to do, and lets it  
loose awhile in there  
to a tinkling sound while  
I lie still in bed, alive  
like I've never been, in  
love again with life,  
afraid they'll find me  
drowned here, drowned  
in more than my fair  
share of joy.

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