

# AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

A FREE COLUMN FOR NEWSPAPERS BY TED KOOSER, POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2006  
AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY © 2006 THE POETRY FOUNDATION WEBSITE: WWW.AMERICANLIFEINPOETRY.ORG CONTACT: ALP@POETRYFOUNDATION.ORG

## American Life in Poetry: Column 630

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

I'm celebrating my 78<sup>th</sup> birthday by publishing one of my own poems. When an old guy like me is still writing poetry, he tends to write a lot of old-guy poems.

### Look for Me

Look for me under the hood  
of that old Chevrolet settled in weeds  
at the end of the pasture.

I'm the radiator that spent its years  
bolted in front of an engine  
shoving me forward into the wind.

Whatever was in me in those days  
has mostly leaked away,  
but my cap's still screwed on tight

and I know the names of all these  
tattered moths and broken grasshoppers  
the rest of you've forgotten.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of *Poetry* magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2017 by Ted Kooser, "Look for Me." Poem reprinted by permission of Ted Kooser. Introduction copyright ©2017 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

American Life in Poetry ©2006 The Poetry Foundation  
Contact: [alp@poetryfoundation.org](mailto:alp@poetryfoundation.org)  
This column does not accept unsolicited poetry.