

***Life in the Eyes of an Asthmatic***

Sometimes, only sometimes,  
Air becomes Styrofoam,  
Harder to swallow than to see.

Nearly always,  
Walking is swimming  
And air is my solvent.  
I must take small breaths  
Otherwise I'll drown.

Running is an unfavorable resolution,  
Ribs turn to steel.  
Lungs become caged  
Birds waiting on their caretaker  
Who seems to be looking for the key.

Spring  
Does not bring new life.  
It surrounds my lungs in bubble wrap.  
Like a child afraid  
To ride a bike.

Never  
Has air seemed smooth.  
No, it's my adversary.  
The one substance keeping me alive  
Happens to be the one causing me the most  
Pain

***Mother***

Honor Her,  
Even when her hands wrinkle  
Like the paint on old walls.  
Even when she staggers and her cane becomes her craig.

Honor her,  
Even when the phone calls drift  
Like snow across the pavement.  
Even when she mumbles under her breath.

Honor her,  
When she's broken down because father left.  
When she's too tired  
To live out a full day.

Honor her,  
When her sunflower eyes  
Begin to wilt.  
For this is when she will need you most.

Honor your father and your mother  
But pay special attention to the latter.  
For she will all to often love you so much  
She'll forget to love herself.

***Pencils***

Those things we nervously tap,  
Our substitute for drum sticks.  
The things we chew on out of habit.

They are found in the halls,  
Broken to pieces.  
Stepped on by the oblivious.  
The ones in the bottom of your backpack for one reason or another,  
Broken lead,  
Missing an eraser.

Then there are the perfect ones that are neatly sharpened,  
No teeth marks to be found,  
It includes an eraser,  
But it has fallen out of the hands of a careless owner.

Pencils are more than just this.  
They are teacher's friends,  
They are the tools "the greats" use,  
They are the things people who make a lot of mistakes are grateful for.

After all this I realized pencils are like people,  
Or people are like pencils,  
I'm not sure yet.