**Grass - Poem by Valerie Worth**

Grass on the lawn
says nothing:
Clipped, empty,
Quiet.
Grass in the fields
whistles, slides,
casts up a foam
of seeds,
Tangles itself
With leaves: hides
Whole rustling schools
Of mice.

# Fireworks - Poem by Valerie Worth

First
A far thud
Then the rocket
Climbs the air,
A dull red flare,
To hang, a moment
Invisible, before
Its shut black shell cracks
And claps against the ears
Breaks and billows into bloom
Spilling down clear green sparks, gold spears,
Silent sliding silver waterfalls and stars.

# Marbles - Poem by Valerie Worth

Marbles picked up

heavy by the handful

And held, weighed,

Hard, glossy,

Glassy, cold

Then poured clicking,

Water-smooth, back

To their bag, seem

Treasure: round jewels,

Slithering gold.

# Barefoot - Poem by Valerie Worth

After that tight

Chock of sock

And blunt

Weight of shoe

The foot can feel

Clover’s green

Skin

Growing,

And the fine

Invisible

Teeth

Of gentle grass,

And the cool

Breath

Of the earth

beneath.

# Doll - Poem by Valerie Worth

Her eyes beam,

Full of sweet

Blue glass,

Her dainty

Shallow mouth

Curves pink;

Even when her clothes

Are lost, her curls

Left in knots,

Her smile

Remains the same,

I think.

# Safety Pin - Poem by Valerie Worth

Closed, it sleeps

On its side

Quietly,

The silver

Image

Of some

Small fish;

# Mosquito - Poem by Valerie Worth

There is more

To a mosquito

Than her sting

Or the way she sings

In the ear:

There are her wings

As clear

As windows,

There are the sleek

Velvets on her back;

She bends six

Slender knees,

And her eye, that

Sees the swatter

Glitters.

# Fish - Poem by Valerie Worth

In these green aquarium

Windows, fish

Loom, rise and slide,

But all dulled

To the same white flesh,

Pale pictures, little more;

While where oceans