

Classic Poetry Series

Jeffrey Harrison

- poems -

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Necessity

John Clare
wrote poems
on scraps
of paper,

erased them
with bread
he ate
afterwards.

When he ran
out of scraps
he wrote
in his hat.

When he ran
out of bread
he ate
grass.

Jeffrey Harrison

Rilke's Fear Of Dogs

had less to do
with any harm
they might inflict
than with the sad
look in their eyes
expressing a need
for love he felt
he couldn't meet.
And so he looked
away from them.

He was too busy
for such obligations,
waiting instead
for angels to speak,
looking up at heaven
with an expression
they couldn't help
responding to,
try as they might
to avoid his gaze.

Jeffrey Harrison