

Classic Poetry Series

**Geoffrey Piers Henry  
Dutton  
- poems -**

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# Geoffrey Piers Henry Dutton(2 August 1922 – 17 September 1998)

Geoffrey Piers Henry Dutton AO was an Australian author and historian.

Dutton was born into a prominent pastoralist family in Kapunda, South Australia in 1922. He studied at the University of Adelaide and the University of Oxford. Whilst studying at the University of Adelaide, he wrote for the student newspaper *On Dit* and avant-garde magazine *Angry Penguins*. During his career, Dutton wrote or edited over 200 books, including poetry, fiction, biographies, art appreciation, art and literary history, travel books, novels for children and critical essays. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1976, and died in 1998.

# Shark

Sometimes when the shallow water is clear and green

A long and steadily moving shape is seen,

And the whole bright bay suddenly grows dark,

And swimmers rush for the shore at the cry of 'Shark!'

Porpoises bounce cheerfully up and down

But sharks go grimly straight, as if a frown

Was above the horrible grin I cannot see,

And those little eyes were glaring straight at me.

Lazily the dark shape turns, to disappear

Above the weed, and the sea is full of fear.

No thank you, just now I haven't any wish

To swim, or even to launch the boat to fish.

Geoffrey Piers Henry Dutton