

## penguins

when I was 7 or 8  
I made these penguins out of paper-mache  
actually as usual on this type of project  
seems like my dad did a lot of the work  
we made two of them one big one little  
emperor and dwarf I think  
they had wire hanger skeletons  
inside paper-mache bodies  
I painted them and they looked real cool.

they were for a school project so  
they hung out at school for a while  
then I brought them home and  
gave them to my mom  
she put them in her bedroom closet  
for safekeeping.

every so often I'd sneak in and look at them  
or ask mom to let me see them  
until one day they were gone!  
I asked my mom where the penguins were and  
she said they got moldy  
so she threw 'em out  
I never saw them again  
don't even have a picture  
except the blurry one in my head  
I sure wish she had let me say goodbye to them  
or taken a picture of them  
or something  
but they're gone for good and it really hurts.

I'm 31 goin' on 32 and  
I still can't believe my mom did that.