

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.