

Why Kids Love Hawk and Stoney

by John R. Brown

A 6-year-old boy understands right away.
Grown men, old men, men working long past retirement age,
men named Dizzy and Pee-Wee,
Dusty and Rusty and Sparky and Bucky.
Years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Herzog and Mr. and Mrs. Ford
gazed fondly at their beautiful new-born baby boys
and exclaimed, "Let's name him 'Whitey'!"
Ty Cobb became the Georgia Peach
though Georgia Prick might have been a better fit.
The mammoth man-child George Herman Ruth,
endowed with a life-force so powerful
that he could not pass an orphanage, a speak-easy
or a whorehouse without checking in to ask,
"Is everybody happy?"
Ruth, whose name became an adjective,
was too big for just one nickname.
The Sultan of Swat and of course the Babe.
Which brings us to a man named Scooter,
the un-Ruthian Phil Rizzuto,
infielder, broadcaster, executive, coot in Pin-stripes,
never confused with Ivan "Scooter" Libby.
Baseball's Scooter never needed a note from the president
to stay out of federal prison.

Greyhound

by Avendor

Timorously, with trepidation,
I make my way to the Greyhound station
Tired people, long miles across the U.S.A.
Drug pushers at the hubs, cigarette breaks along the way
Make a friend for the day
See the trees, the desolate places
Different kinds of towns
Different kinds of faces
Starting over
Following dreams
Getting away on the Greyhound
All the way to the end of the country
Just to try to tie up some loose ends
All the way across the country
Just to check up on a friend
All over the country
To begin again.

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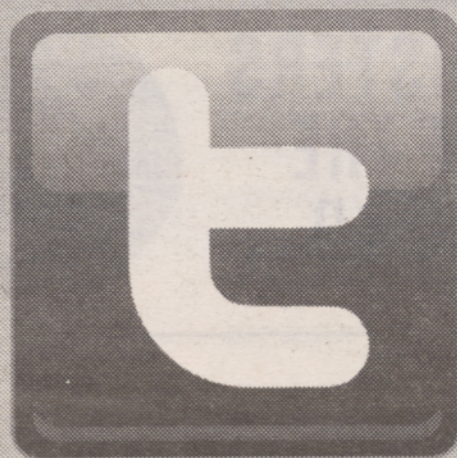
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