

## Crabbit Old Woman

What do you see nurses?  
What do you see?  
What are you thinking when you are looking at me?  
A crabbit old woman not very wise  
Uncertain of habit with far away eyes  
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply,  
When you say in a loud voice 'I do wish you'd try'  
Who seems not to notice the things that you do  
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe  
Who, unresisting or not, lets you do as you will  
With bathing and feeding the long day to fill  
Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see?  
Then open your eyes nurse,  
You're not looking at me.  
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still  
As I use at your bidding, as I eat at your will.  
I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother  
Brothers and sisters who love one another,  
A young girl of sixteen with wings on her feet,  
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet:  
A bride soon at twenty my heart gives a leap  
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep:  
At twenty five now I have young of my own  
Who need me to build a secure and happy home.  
A young woman of thirty my young now grow fast  
Bound to each other with ties that should last:  
At forty my young ones now grown will soon be gone  
But my man stays beside me to see I don't mourn  
At fifty once more babies play round my knee,  
Again we know children my loved one and me,  
Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead  
I look at the future I shudder with dread  
For my young ones are all busy rearing young of their own,  
And I think of the years and the love I have known  
I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel  
'Tis her jest to make me age like a fool  
The body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart,  
There now is a stone where I once had a heart:  
But inside this old carcase a young girl still dwells,  
And now and again my battered heart swells,  
I remember the joys, I remember the pain,  
And I'm loving and living my life over again  
I think of the years all too few - gone too fast,  
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last  
So open your eyes nurse, open and see,

Thomas E. Pomeranz, Ed.D. • President and CEO  
8126 Wellsbrook Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46278

Voice: (317) 871-2092 • Fax: (317) 871-2096 • [tpomer@aol.com](mailto:tpomer@aol.com)  
[www.universallifestiles.com](http://www.universallifestiles.com)

