

Dog Training

Dad would snap at us
if we gave the dogs food:
Don't feed them at the table!
It turns them into beggars!

The dogs slip like shadows
through the woolshed door
to hide in the shade

out of Dad's sight.
He's shearing in a hot haze,
handpiece buzzing and humming
– on again – off again –

we have to keep sweeping,
sticky with grease
from carrying fleeces.
We watch the clock tick down

to smoko. The dogs doze,
heads on their paws.
Their eyes shine in the dark.

They're watching Dad.
He bites his sandwich in half
and throws – Snap!
Joe snatches it out of the air.

Marty Smith



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by Marty Smith

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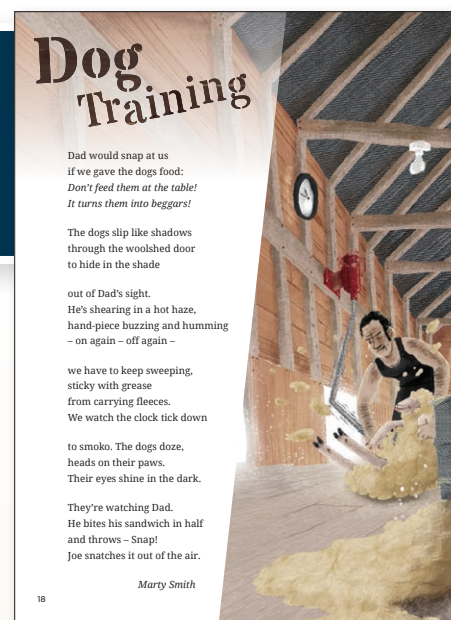
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