

## The Purpose of Life

When I was growing up,  
say between the ages of 9-12,  
I knew the answer:  
to walk barefooted  
as early as possible in Spring:  
after a rain  
to jump into puddles  
splashing water all over myself  
or squish viscid mud  
between bare toes,  
and, as summer deepened,  
pick sandburs  
from bare feet  
and at night  
bottle fireflies.  
Now that I'm older  
and have thought about it  
some  
with my Ph.D. mind,  
well, my early answer  
will still have to do.

• Elmer Suderman has published poems, short stories, and scholarly articles from New York to California and Minnesota to Texas. Past President of MCTE, he is Professor Emeritus at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN.

Sports  
Bloody, sweaty  
Crunching, checking, huffing, and puffing  
95 MPH slap shots  
Hockey

• Nick Domagala is a 7th grade student at Luverne Middle-High School.

Sports  
Quick, fast  
Swinging, catching, throwing  
A great, diving snag  
Baseball

• Clint Gehrke is a 7th grade student at Luverne Middle-High School.

• Nick and Clint are students of Elizabeth Peterson who teaches English at Luverne Middle-High School in Luverne, MN.