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FACULTAD DE FILOSOFIA, LETRAS
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TEMA: "FREDERICK OGDEN NASH IN HIS TIME"

ABSTRACT

"Ogden Nash in His Time," is about a famous American humorous poet. Nash became very famous for his funny works. His poems were humorous not only because they made people laugh, but also because they contained some truth of human experience. His poems are loved by children and adults in the United States. Nash applied his love of language to poems, stories, and lyrics. Among his most popular writings were a series of animal verses. When Nash wasn't writing poems, he made guest appearances on comedy, radio shows, and toured the United States and England, giving lectures at colleges and universities. Nash wrote about the famous baseball players of his day, but he particularly loved Baltimore sports. Nash's works have been a way to show us his life, his experiences, and his problems.

Our thesis contains five chapters. The first one, BIOGRAPHY, is about Nash's life. The second chapter, HISTORICAL EVENTS, is about the time that Nash lived in during the First War World, The First Radio Broadcast, The immigration Act, The Great Depression, and the life and the presidency of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The third chapter, OGDEN NASH'S POETRY STYLE, illustrates the poetry style that Nash used to write his poems. The fourth chapter,



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HOW OGDEN NASH WAS AFFECTED BY SOME HISTORICAL EVENTS, explains how Nash' life was affected, and the contributions made by him in that time. Finally, fifth chapter, ANALYSIS OF SOME OF OGDEN NASH'S POETRY AND SOME QUOTES, contains the analysis of some poems and verses.



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Cue words

1. Nash
2. North America
3. Humorous
4. Poetry
5. Animals
6. Great Depression
7. Children



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DEDICATORY

I want to thank God because he gave me life and guides my way; also, I want to thank BRYAN, the sweet child of mine who with his presence on Earth and especially in my life since the first minute I heard him cry was to become the only and the most important person in my life.

Words are not enough to describe all the great sensations going through my heart day after day until the last day of my life. He is my source of inspiration, the sweet boy who gave me the strength to achieve one of my greatest goals, and I want to share my happiness with him and no one else for eternity and one more day.

NELLY CÁRDENAS



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DEDICATORY

I, Diana Zhagüi, want to thank God in the first place, who gave me enough wisdom to develop my thesis in a better way; also, all my family, especially my parents, who gave me the opportunity to study in this prestigious university, and for all the support and confidence they gave me day after day, more than ever when I went to The United States.

Also, I want to dedicate it to Dr. Ion Youman and Mgtr. Katherine Youman, who helped me by giving me an excellent education and knowledge in English in these years of study in the university, especially for the great confidence that they had in me when I went to Saint Andrews Presbyterian College.

The experience that I got in the University of Cuenca and at Saint Andrews helped me to develop as a student and as a professional in a lot of ways, in the past and nowadays. For this reason, I dedicate my thesis to God, my parents, Dr. Ion Youman, and Mgtr. Katherine Youman.



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INTRODUCTION

As we know, the history of the United States of America has been filled with its own books that contain important events, persons, and other factors that made of the history of the United States an interesting factor to study. The events are able to create an own way for the history of any country. For this reason, we have considered it is important for the people to know about Frederick Ogden Nash who was a humorous American poet and writer. And he was also a multi-talented writer who showed interest not only for adults but also for children.

His early life was basically hard because he always moved on various East Coast communities and also lived in Savannah. He was dedicated to study until he was at college. When he was in college, he had financial problems; therefore, he dropped it out, so he began to work hard, day after day until he became an important writer. His early carrier began as a school teacher for one year at George's School in Newport.

Later, he worked as a bond salesperson and as an advertising copywriter. In 1925, Nash took a position with Doubleday Page Publishers as an editor and a publicist,



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and published his first children's story, written with Joseph Alger, *The Cricket of Carador*.

Five years after 1930 Nash published his first humorous poem "**Spring Comes to Murray Hill**" in "*The New Yorker*." Also, Nash was able to publish more than two dozen volumes of verse, as well as screenplays, lyrics and scripts for theater, children stories and various essays, most of them were based on the human experience but also his family proved to be a strong influence on his work.

By the late 1940s Nash was the best-known American writer of humorous poetry. He was well known not only for being one of the few American humorist poets, but for his clever humor, that sometimes enclosed a message for the people; other times, they contained some satirical contents or just some critics to society.

As life goes on, his career also continued developing up to get to the top. As an example of his successful professional life we can say that he received honorary degrees from New England College, and was elected membership in some important societies, including American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (1943), and the National Institute of Arts and Letters (1950), and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (1965).



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Ogden Nash was a person of admiration since he never wasted his time. The reason is that he invested his free time on various radio games and comedy shows, and to write scores for TV shows. Finally, Nash continued writing, acting, and publishing his works until the last day of his life on May 19, 1971.

In the development of the following thesis, "Frederick Ogden Nash in His Time" we are going to present five chapters. The first contains a short biography of Nash; the second refers to some historical events; the third presents Ogden Nash's Poetry Style, the fourth tells us how Ogden Nash was affected by some historical events, and the fifth is an analysis of some of Ogden Nash's poetry and some famous quotes.



CHAPTER I

FREDERICK OGDEN NASH



I. BIOGRAPHY

1.1 EARLY YEARS AND EDUCATION

Frederick Ogden Nash is one of the few American humorous poets. He became very famous during his life for his funny work. Ogden Nash was an American poet who wrote light, whimsical, and nonsensical verse. He was best known for his funny poem *The Lama*.



The Lama

The one-I lama,
He's a priest.
The two-I llama,
He's a beast.
And I will bet
A silk pajama
There isn't any
Three-I llama.*

-- [Ogden Nash](#)

He was born on August 19, 1902 in Rye, New York. His parents were Edmund Strudwick Nash and [Mathilde](#) Chenault. They were married on December 10, 1889 in Louisville, Kentucky. They had 5 children: Shirley, Eleanor, Ogden, Ted, and Aubrey. His mother was a working-class woman of Mexican descent. She never went beyond high school, but like millions of ordinary Americans a century ago, she loved poetry. Nash's mother especially liked reading it aloud or reciting it from memory. She knew a surprising number of famous poems by heart, as well as a



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remarkable selection of obscurities. Also, she became Ogden's tutor. His father was a businessman. He was in the import-export business, but the Nash family's ancestry was a distinguished American blueblood one. In 1903, Edmund Nash became president of Patterson, Downing and Company. Besides, Ogden had ten thousand cousins in North Carolina.

Their roots in North Carolina stretched back to the American Revolutionary era, and the city of Nashville, Tennessee, was named in honor of another forbear. Nash himself grew up in various East Coast communities, and also lived in Savannah, Georgia, during his youth. Nash was blessed to have been born into a family that valued education for all its members, including his two sisters. The fact that learning was stressed so strongly had a huge impact on Nash's love of language and writing.

By the age of ten, he was already demonstrating his ability to use language by writing poetry for family, friends, and local newspapers. Before his father's financial ruin, Ogden and Aubrey had a tutor in Savannah. Later, after attending day school in Rye, New York, Ogden was sent to the Shaw School in Groton, Connecticut, when he was ten. It was a very small school, with a capacity for only eight boys. Nash thoroughly enjoyed the Shaw School in 1912. It



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was, he said, where he "learned some Latin and began my rather serious study of Latin, a language I've found very useful."1. The following year Nash did not return to school because he had a difficulty with his eyesight that greatly disturbed his mother. So she took two actions: she had her son take a course in touch typing, and she took him out of school to study at home. So then Nash did a great deal of reading with his mother at home.

After the spring of 1913 the Nashes gave up their home in Savannah and lived at Ramaqua, Long Island year round. So Nash's educational path took another detour. On a visit from her home in Baltimore, his sister, Shirley Gwendolyn, best known as Gwen, came down with polio at Ramaqua. As a precaution, Ogden and Aubrey were sent off to Mattie's sister Nell, in Nashville, where Ogden attended Wallace University School. But by the spring of 1917, financial pressures finally forced the Nashes to give up Ramaqua. Edmund, Mattie, and Aubrey moved into an apartment in New York City, while Ogden went to stay temporarily with his brother Ted on Long Island.

While he was living with his brother Ted, the United States declared war against Germany, on April 6. At that time, they suffered a difficult issue, which was The First World War in the States. But two years later Ogden



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followed his brother Ted to Groton, Connecticut, where Ogden planned to study at a boarding school, but they had financial problems again. Another opportunity, however, soon appeared. In February 1917, Ted had married Esther Auchincloss. Her father, Hugh, had served on the board of trustees of St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island, until his death in 1913, and her mother had been the principal donor of a gymnasium for the school. So it was that in the fall of 1917 Ogden enrolled at St. George's. Nash graduated from that school in June, 1920. And then he went on to enroll at Harvard University. Unfortunately, Nash only studied at Harvard for one year because he was forced to leave for financial reasons. Nash was not a natural athlete, and his eyesight required glasses, but he was an eager participant in football, basketball, and baseball at various levels.

1.2 BEGINNING HIS CAREER

Nash was compelled to get his first full-time job at the age of nineteen, and he would never again have a chance to go back to college because of financial difficulties. After Ogden Nash dropped out of the university, he held a variety of jobs, but none for very long. He first worked as a teacher at his own high school in Rhode Island for a year, and from



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there he jumped from job to job, constantly trying new things and stretching his limits. He worked on the Stock Market, wrote streetcar advertisements, and then worked as an editor for the Doubleday publishing company.

Nash, however, did not find much success on Wall Street. He began in the mail room of a prominent brokerage firm. After a year and a half and the sale of a single bond to his godmother Nash decided it was time to move on to a vocation better suited to his talents. He still had dreams of becoming a writer, and he shared them with his roommate, Joe Alger, who had similar aspirations. So they wrote a book entitled *The Cricket of Carador*, which they succeeded in selling to a major publisher, Doubleday, Page & Company.

In 1930 Nash wrote a poem called "Spring Comes to Murray Hill" and submitted it to the *New Yorker*, one of the most respected, well-read magazines of the day. The *New Yorker* published the poem and invited Nash to submit more poems.

Nash's boss, Dan Longwell, had become his mentor and encouraged him to submit some of his verse to The *New Yorker*. After his poem "Spring Comes to Murray Hill" was purchased and published, Nash's career as a writer



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truly began. In 1932, he left Doubleday and joined the New Yorker staff, and from there he eventually quit to become a full-time writer.

1.3 HIS MARRIAGE

1.3.1 HIS WIFE

Frances Rider Leonard Nash was born on April 12, 1906 in Salisbury, Maryland. Leonard had attended school at Versailles, France. She attended this school largely to please her father, but left before graduating. Frances's parents were William Wirt Leonard and Nellie Jackson Leonard. They were both from families long established in Salisbury, Maryland, but having different traditions.

In November 1928 Nash's sister Gwen and her husband, Douglas Gorman, invited him to a dinner-dance at the Elkridge Hunt in Baltimore. During cocktails, Nash was introduced to a young lady, Frances Leonard, whom he immediately found to be uncommonly attractive. Leaving nothing to chance, he surreptitiously changed his dinner place card so that he might sit next to her. They began to talk to each other. Indeed, the conversation proceeded so amiably that Miss Leonard agreed that Mr. Nash might see her home from the party. For Ogden, it was love at first sight, but Frances had a more down-to-earth reaction.



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While she had enjoyed their dinner conversation, talking of books and politics and publishing, she had no reason to think of Nash as a serious suitor. At the time, Nash was an advertising copywriter for Doubleday & Company.

Nash, however, wasted little time in launching his pursuit. He wrote to Frances the following Wednesday from New York, beginning the letter "Dear Miss Leonard" but quickly adding, "Or in this formality necessary?"². Nash mentioned that he had sent her two books, suggested that she ought to visit New York, and said that he hoped to see her in Baltimore over Christmas.

Over the next nine months, Nash's letters continued in the same vein, telling Frances of life at Doubleday, including office politics. During that period, Ogden saw Frances only four times: in December, March, April, and August. Nash persuaded her to attend a "moveable house party" with his friends George Elliman and Charlie Duell and their dates, another couple, and, as chaperones, the Christopher Morleys. The party began on August 23, on Long Island, where Frances met Ogden's sister Eleanor, and the following day moved by motorboat and sailboat across Long Island Sound and on to Duell's house on the Hudson.



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On Saturday night, under a brilliant moon, Nash confessed his love to Frances and proposed marriage. She accepted. Later on, Ogden wrote Frances' parents to seek their blessing. Nash then received a letter from Mrs. Leonard that was welcoming him to her family.

In January of 1931 Nash visited Baltimore, and Frances told him that she was still uncertain of her feelings and suggested that they cut back on their correspondence. Nash also learned that an old flame of Frances's had reappeared. This unwelcome news put Nash into a state of depression which lasted until the following Thursday; therefore, he decided not to return to Baltimore that weekend.

Later on, Frances went to Europe, and she told Nash that she was going to make a decision. So, when she came back, they were engaged to each other. The engagement was announced on March 28, 1931, and the wedding was held on June 6. Before the wedding, however, Nash's euphoria was shaken by another event, the death of his father on April 27. Although Nash had remained close to his father, the death was not allowed to delay the wedding.

The wedding was held in Baltimore, and Nash's close friend from St. George's, publisher Eugene Reynald, served



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as best man. They had two daughters. His marriage and his children proved to be a strong influence on his work, and they ended up moving to Baltimore, Maryland.

Life in Baltimore agreed with Nash. A few years later, in 1938, when Nash was working as a screenwriter in Hollywood, he wrote yearningly of those days in a letter to Frances: "I am eager to get back to the 1936 pre-Hollywood routine, a good morning's work, an hour or so for lunch, and the rest of the day together."³ On weekends the Nashes had an active social life, principally involving Frances's family and friends, with whom Nash mixed comfortably.

For Nash the early thirties in Baltimore echoed in many ways the title of his 1933 book, *Happy Days*. Yet the book included a number of poems with a distinctly darker tone that reflected some of the Depression's painful realities. In Nash's case, the economics of freelance writing were a continuing challenge, but the most serious threat to his own happy days was of a different sort: a growing disagreement with Frances over his drinking. Alcoholism is the occupational hazard of writers, and that was never truer than with the brilliant group who had come of age in Manhattan in the twenties in the atmosphere of ubiquitous speakeasies.



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In that same year, alcohol became a serious issue in the Nash household. While Nash did not allow drinking to interfere with his work, he had begun to push the term "social drinker" to its limit. Matters may have been brought to a head one evening when he and Frances attended a cocktail party at a home near the top of a very steep road. In those days, hosts were not so well aware of their responsibilities, and the Nashes were permitted to leave the party, though Frances did not drive and Ogden was obviously "under the weather." Ogden got behind the wheel, but it was Frances who had to take over the steering as the car made a perilous descent to level terrain. While no damage was done, the experience left a considerable impression. That may well have been the occasion when Frances, as she once confided to Isabel, warned Ogden that if he did not get his drinking under control, she would sleep with the next man who asked her. The threat was no doubt rhetorical, and intended to get her husband's attention, but Frances had taken a concrete step to address the situation.

On October 19 she departed on a six-week trip to Europe with her mother, leaving Linell and Isabel in Ogden's care and giving him an ultimatum: if their marriage was to survive, he must get his drinking under control by the



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time she returned. Nash's letters during her absence reveal only partially the straits that he must have felt. They tell of progress with his work, routine social activities, and how much the children and he missed her.

When Frances returned in December, she found matters resolved to her satisfaction. Many years later, Linell observed that her mother's approach to Nash's drinking might today be termed "confrontation" or "intervention." The point was, she had acted at the time when Nash "could still weigh the importance of the extra drink against its consequences, a world without Frances."⁴ Nash would continue to be an enthusiastic consumer of alcohol, but the habit never got out of control. And while his drinking might become an occasional source of contention, it never again threatened his marriage.

The same year Nash's first book of poetry, *Hard Lines*, was published. Mrs. Nash had a keen interest in politics and world affairs. A voracious reader, she was reading more than 20 books a week until several months before her death.

Nash's wife, Frances Leonard, died on June 15, 1984 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. After her death the Washington Post wrote: Frances Leonard Nash, 88, the widow of poet



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Ogden Nash and a granddaughter of former Maryland Gov. Elihu Jackson, died June 15 at her home here. She had myelodysplasia, a blood disorder.

1.3.2 HIS DAUGHTERS

In his personal life, he had two daughters, Linell Chenault and Isabel Jackson. Linell was born in March of 1932 and Isabel was born in September of 1933. When they were children, they were care for by Edmund's sister Shirley Gwendolyn, "Gwen." Also, Linell had described Gwen as her father's darling and her mother's strong right arm. Linell graduated from Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Connecticut, and Isabel, having skipped a grade, graduated with her. Linell didn't enjoy school, and she wasn't interested in academics. One aspect of school that she had enjoyed was singing in presentations of Gilbert and Sullivan, and those experiences had generated an ambition to be an opera singer. She had a successful audition with Romano Romani while working as a nurse's aide at Johns Hopkins.

After that, she made her debut in Baltimore society. However, Isabel postponed her own debut as well as her admission to Bryn Mawr until the following year. She preferred to travel to Europe but the trip had an accident



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that would be long remembered in the Nash family. Isabel was interested in a man much older and married. Her father was indignant, dismayed, and startled. The man, Spencer Curtins Brown, had a bad reputation. After a few months Linell was involved in a much more serious relationship with John Marshall Smith. He was ten years older than Linell and a veteran of World War II.

In June 1951, Linell and Johnny were engaged. Despite their difference in age, Ogden and Frances approved it. In "Poem by the Father of the Bride, Aged 19" Nash celebrated the prospect of having for the first time some male companionship in the family. Nash's feelings were understandable. He was more nervous than the bride. The wedding was at the Church of the Redeemer, a reception for five hundred guests was held at the Elkridge Club, and their honeymoon was in New York. After a year, Linell and Johnny came back to Baltimore and presented the Nashes with their first grandchild, Linell, who would be known in the family as Nell.

Meanwhile, Isabel had dropped out of Bryn Mawr and taken courses in typing, cooking, and writing. Although her earliest writings imitated her father's verse, she had won a literary competition when she was nine, and her first published work, "Christmas Morning" appeared in 1950. In



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1954 Isabel met Fred Eberstadt, who was a few years older and working as a television producer at NBC. Isabel's first letter to her parents described Fred as dreadful, but a month later, in August, she wrote that she and Fred were engaged. Nash described him as an attractive person. Isabel's wedding was less elaborate than Linell's. It was in the chapel of St. Bartholomew's Church on Park Avenue, with a reception at the Nashes' New York apartment. The Eberstadts and the Smiths gave Frances and Nash more grandchildren: Nick and Fernanda Eberstadt (1955 and 1960), and Frances and Brigid Smith (1954 and 1956).

In 1953 Nash wrote Arthur Roberts at St. George's, "I am now a grandfather; the wonder child is a ten-month old girl who keeps me in a rosy mist of simpleminded adoration."⁵ His children proved to be a strong influence on his father's work. His experiences with fatherhood provided more comic fodder for his verse, evident in the 1936 collection *The Bad Parents' Garden of Verse*. He offered this observation as a result of a party, comparing his children and their companions to tribal warriors: "Of similarity there's lots/Twixt tiny tots and Hottentots."



1.4. AS A PROFESSIONAL

1.4.1 BEGINS WRITING VERSE

Nash said that it was the poor quality of the manuscripts he read that led him to try to write. He attempted to produce serious verse in the style of the eighteenth-century Romantic poets but soon gave it up. He preferred to scribble comic verse on pages that he lined and tossed across the office to the desks of coworkers. This led Nash and a friend named Joseph Alger to work together to produce a 1925 children's book, *The Cricket of Carador*. A few years later, Nash teamed up with two Doubleday coworkers to produce *Born in a Beer Garden; or, She Troupes to Conquer*, which made fun of classic literature.

In 1930, Nash saw verse as only one element, and not necessarily the most important, in his repertoire as an aspiring writer. In his first year as a contributor to *The New Yorker*, he made repeated submissions of humorous essays and short stories.

Nash's career as a published poet began in earnest when he wrote a poem called *Spring Comes to Murray Hill* and submitted it to the *New Yorker*, considered one of the most respected, well-read periodicals of the day. It was published on May 3, 1930. Nash had thought up the poem



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while gazing out his office window and thinking about his life. The *New Yorker* published the poem and invited Nash to submit more; his regular appearances in the magazine led to a contract for his first work, *Hard Lines*, published in January of 1931. It was of ninety nine pages. It was a tremendous success, going into seven printings in its first year alone, and catapulted Nash into his role as the master of light verse.

The first printing of 4,000 copies was largely exhausted before the official publication date of January 15, and a second printing of 3,500 went to press that morning. By the end of the February, sales were still strong, and the book was on every best-seller list in the United States. Nash received letters of congratulation from any number of authors and writers.

In 1932 Nash left Doubleday to join the editorial staff of *The New Yorker*. On December 3, Nash accepted the offer from *The New Yorker* for a salary of \$9,100. His steady and lengthy affiliation with the magazine helped establish its distinctive tone and sense of humor. Nash's professional growth had been accompanied by even more important developments in his personal life. When Nash's poems were appearing regularly in *The New Yorker*, he told



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Frances that she was the inspiration for his work and success.

Finally, he began to write full-time, publishing over two dozen books of poetry and prose in his lifetime. Nash pursued his career even as the effects of the depression grew more severe.

1.4.2 SUCCESSFUL FORMULA

During the 1930s and 1940s, Nash's poems continued to appear in many magazines and published collections, and he was praised as one of America's greatest humorists. He found great success with his ability to express disbelief and dismay at the problems of modern American life. He also criticized religious preaching and pompous senators, and presented amusing quirks of the English language. Still, he referred to himself simply as a "worsifier" instead of a "versifier." British reviews of his work often criticized him for taking liberties with spelling and rhyme. One of his most famous examples is the line: If called by a panther/Don't anther.

1.4.3 LATER YEARS

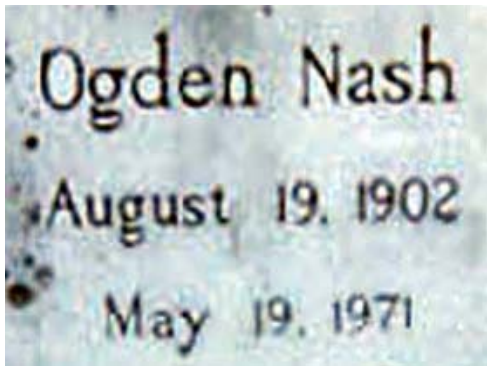
Nash was elected to both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and National Institute of Arts and Letters.



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During the 1950s he wrote more frequently for the children's market, with such titles as *The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus* (1957), *Custard the Dragon* (1959), and *Girls are Silly* (1962). He also wrote for television productions of *Peter and the Wolf* and *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. He often wrote about his experiences babysitting his grandchildren. After suffering various illnesses in his later years, he wrote a number of poems about the medical establishment that were later collected in 1970's *Bed Riddance: A Posy for the Indisposed*.

1.5 LAST DAYS



The 1960s were the most troubled period in his life. Nash struggled with recurring illness, periods of depression and personal distress. His most serious problems were physical illnesses. By middle age he had developed something of a hypochondriac (somebody who is unduly preoccupied with personal health and believes that



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illness is nearly always present or imminent). In spite of his illnesses he responded with good humor and sought to quiet the fears of family and friends. In his mid-fifties he suffered intestinal problems that were variously diagnosed and treated.

In 1958, Nash entered Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore. Although the intestinal problems continued, he returned to writing and lecturing after only a brief convalescence. In 1963, he was hospitalized in Boston for two weeks in August. He needed a treatment of profuse medication and strict diet and quiet. When he felt better he returned to lecturing on a more limited basis. After one year he took a trip to England with his wife but in London he was taken violently ill. He was admitted in London Clinic, where he stayed for eight days. His illness forced him to cancel a series of scheduled lectures.

In 1966, Nash's tests showed a problem in the gut which could be corrected by surgery. The surgery was pronounced a success, and he was very stable for the next years. In January, 1968, he published a major collection, *There's Always Another Windmill* and was inspired to publish another book, *Bed Riddance*, that collected the verses he had written over years with respect to doctors,



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dentists, and a variety of minor maladies. In this year, he was finally forced to accept the advice that doctors had given him nearly ten years before. He gave up lecturing.

Also, in this year he told interviewers that he had amended his most famous lines, "Candy/Is Dandy /But liquor/ Is quicker," by adding "Pot is not."⁶ He expanded on the point, philosophically, and perhaps in defense of his own tastes, to suggest that liquor makes its drinkers nicely social. But pot doesn't do that, I hear; it's too individual.

By April 15, 1971 Nash's condition began to deteriorate, and he showed signs of kidney failure. He was moved to Johns Hopkins Hospital for dialysis. Doctors hoped the dialysis treatment would lead to a rapid improvement in Nash's condition, but it wasn't so. His wife and friends did whatever they could, but this time the love and support of friends and family would not be enough. He fought for two more weeks, but finally Nash died of Crohn's disease at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore on May 19, 1971.

He was interred in North Hampton, New Hampshire. Ogden Nash continued to write, publish, tour, and lecture until very close to the end of his life. Several collections of his work were published after his death, including *I Wouldn't*



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Have Missed It (1975) and *A Penny Saved Is Impossible* (1981). Fellow poet Morris Bishop eulogized Nash in *Time* magazine with these lines: "Free from flashiness, free from trashiness/Is the essence of ogdenashiness. /Rich, original, rash and rational/Stand the monument ogdenational."7



CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL EVENTS

After taking a quick look at Ogden Nash's life, it is suitable to take a look at the environment which surrounded him in his time, which was one of the sources he used to create some of his poems.

In a general sense, history plays an important role, and most importantly in any author's life, and it is one of the points of our concern for the development of the following chapter. For instance, in the first place, how important is history for the world? It is important to state that we can see in our current time how famous historical works and events have influenced our current time and society. Concerning the second point, it is good to say that an author reflects life in his time, but he doesn't do it in a harsh way, since any writer uses his imagination to reflect his time in his own way and let us know about it.

In the following chapter we are taking a brief look at the first world war and its tragic consequences; The First Radio Broadcast, which appeared as a good consequence of the war; The immigration act of 1929, which marked some kind of darkness when it was revised from 1924 to that time; The Great Depression and its blow to the USA



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economy, as it became the central fact of life in America. Finally, we will analyze the life and the presidency of John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

2.1 FIRST WORLD WAR



Let's start by saying that The First World War had not only one single name, but was also known by many other names, like The Great War, The War of Nations, The War in Europe, and others which are not so important to relate.

Some people believe that the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in Sarajevo was the main cause of the War, but it is not so because the background of this historical event goes further; it began more or less at the very beginning of the 20th century.

During the 19th century, in Europe there were countries which were so powerful that they needed to have a balance to regulate their powers concerning social and political issues, including political and military alliances across the



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continent. The earliest alliance was made in the year 1815 and was called the "Holy Alliance".

The Holy Alliance was certainly some kind of organization whose purpose was to keep peace among countries having more power than others. They were Germany, Russia, and Austria-Hungary. Because of the failure of its policies the Holy Alliance failed; consequently, Germany and Austria-Hungary made an independent alliance, The Dual Alliance. By the year 1882 another country was admitted; it was Italy. After allowing Italy to join them, this Dual Alliance came to be named the "Triple Alliance". Aside from these alliances there were other ones, but the most important one was the Triple Entente, since it included the British Empire, which joined France and Russia by the year 1907.

Some European states established alliances with other powerful states in order to avoid being isolated in case of an imminent war. Then the two most powerful ones made up a military alliance each. The first one was the Triple Alliance, and the second one was the Triple Entente. All these alliances, including the above mentioned, created an expected global crisis throughout Europe. So there was a distrustful environment surrounding the European continent.



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Tension began to grow all over Europe. Thus, between 1905 and 1914, there were many crises and two local battles which were close to breaking out into a war in Europe. On June 28th, 1914, Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian-Serb student and member of Young Bosnia, assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria in Sarajevo, Bosnia. This event initiated a period of diplomatic planning among Austria-Hungary, Germany, Russia, France and Britain called the Crisis, in which Austria–Hungary delivered the July Ultimatum to Serbia, which was a series of ten demands which were deliberately unacceptable and made with the intention of initiating a war with Serbia. When Serbia acceded to only eight of the ten demands imposed upon it, Austria–Hungary declared war on Serbia.

Once Austria–Hungary declared war on Serbia, the corresponding alliances began to work and take part in this already-declared war. Russia, the first allied country on the Serbian side, took its place and joined it because of its Slavic ties. In the very beginning it was just a diplomatic protest against Austria-Hungary. Later, Germany came to the aid of Austria- Hungary because of their posture of backing up the war and of viewing the Russian mobilization as an act of war against Austria- Hungary. In this way, Germany also declared war on Russia on August 1st, 1917.



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Because of the several alliances established before the war began, the different countries took their corresponding positions. Thus, France, Great Britain (with her colonies: Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa), The United States, Russia and Italy joined Serbia. Austria-Hungary, on its side, was allied with German, mainly. In fact, 32 nations participated in War World One, of which 28 supported Serbia, considering themselves as "The Allies". They fought against "The Central Empire" which was made up of the countries in favor of Austria-Hungary, including Belgium and the Ottoman Empire.

Now, from a different perspective it is important to state that the true causes of the war were, among others: The intense nationalistic spirit that expanded in Europe during the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century; the economic and political differences between the different nations; and the militarization process based on the pursuit of arms, which was the main characteristic of the international society during the last third of the XIX century.

Concerning the United States, at the time of the entries of the alliances, President Woodrow Wilson declared a U.S. policy of absolute neutrality, an official posture that would last until 1917, when Germany's policy of unrestricted



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submarine warfare seriously threatened American commercial shipping with Britain. Consequently, the U.S. entered the war on April 6th, 1917.

From these events on, different battles took place all over the European continent. Battles were also fought in places like Africa, the Balkans, New Zealand, New Guinea, India, and many others.

We can mention that in 1912 there had been a war between Italy and Turkey, because of the latter's African possessions. Turkey lost and was forced to hand over Libya, Rhodesia, and the Dodecanese Islands to the Italians. But Turkey's troubles were not yet over. Having concluded peace with the Italians it found itself involved in a war with no fewer than four small nations over the possession of the Balkan territories: Greece, Serbia, and Bulgaria, and later Montenegro. The intervention of the larger European powers brought about an end to this First Balkan War of 1912-1913. Again Turkey lost, and was forced to hand over Crete and all of its European possessions.

Later in 1913, conflict erupted again in the Balkans, as Bulgaria, unsatisfied with its earlier spoils, fought with its recent allies in an attempt to control a greater part of



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Macedonia, and the so-named "Young Turks" - Turkish army officers - denounced the earlier peace as unfair. Between May and July 1913 Bulgaria's former allies beat back the new aggressor, Bulgaria, and Romania captured the Bulgarian capital Sofia in August. Beaten and surrendering on 10 August, 1913, Bulgaria also lost Adrianople back to Turkey.

The collapse of the Central Powers came quickly. Bulgaria was the first to sign an armistice on September 29, 1918 at Saloniki. On October 24 the Italians began a push which rapidly recovered territory lost after the Battle of Caporetto. This culminated in the Battle of Vittorio Veneto, which marked the end of the Austro-Hungarian Army as an effective fighting force. The offensive also caused the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. On October 29, the imperial authorities asked Italy for an armistice. But the Italians continued advancing, reaching Trento, Udine, and Trieste. On November 3 Austria–Hungary sent a flag of truce to ask for an armistice. The terms, arranged by telegraph with the Allied Authorities in Paris, were communicated to the Austrian Commander and accepted. The Armistice with Austria was signed in the Villa Giusti, near Padua, on November 3. Austria and Hungary signed



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separate armistices following the overthrow of the Habsburg monarchy.

Following the outbreak of the German Revolution, a republic was proclaimed on November 9. The Kaiser fled to the Netherlands. On November 11 an armistice with Germany was signed in a railroad carriage at Compiegne. At 11 a.m. on 11 November 1918 — the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month — a truce came into effect. Opposing armies on the Western Front began to remove from their positions. Canadian Private George Lawrence Price is traditionally regarded as the last soldier killed in the Great War: he was shot by a German sniper.

A formal state of war between the two sides persisted for another seven months, until the signing of the Treaty of Versailles with Germany on 28 June 1919. Later treaties with Austro-Hungary, Belgium and the Ottoman Empire were signed. However, the treaty with the Ottoman Empire was followed by strife (the Turkish Independence War) and a final peace treaty was signed between the Allied Powers and the country that would shortly become the Republic of Turkey, at Lausanne on July 24, 1923.

Some war memorials date the end of the war as being when the Versailles treaty was signed in 1919; in contrast,



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most commemorations of the war's end concentrate on the armistice of 11 November 1918. Legally, the last formal peace treaties were not signed until the Treaty of Lausanne. Under its terms, the Allied forces abandoned Constantinople on August 23, 1923.

2.2 FIRST RADIO BROADCAST IN PITTSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The invention of radio was a revolutionary milestone in the technological field. Nowadays, it is an important device used by almost all people in the world. However, this invention was not enough, since it was necessary to have a radio broadcast or waves, that is, electromagnetic waves that had the capacity to transmit music, speech, pictures, and other data invisibly through the air. Many devices work by using electromagnetic waves, including radio, microwaves, cordless phones, remote controlled toys, television broadcasts, and more.

Now the question is, What does the first radio broadcast have to do with the historical events that are being described in the present chapter? The answer is very simple; it is because before, during, and after War World



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One the different militias used this device, which emitted short signals that were able to communicate among radios during the war, to communicate among themselves. By using this device soldiers, sergeants, and other people could give or talk about tactics, attacks, and other strategies.

It is important to go back some time before the first radio broadcast in the USA; this is the reason we go to the year 1860, when a Scottish physicist, James Clerk Maxwell, predicted the existence of radio waves; and in 1886 a German physicist, Heinrich Rudolph Hertz, demonstrated that rapid variations of electric current could be projected into space in the form of radio waves similar to those of light and heat. But back in 1866, Mahlon Loomis, an American dentist, had successfully demonstrated "wireless telegraphy." Loomis was able to make an indicator connected to one kite cause another one to move, marking the first notable instance of wireless aerial communication. In fact, there were other people who also made their contributions to the first radio broadcast, but the above mentioned are taken into account for our purpose.

After a series of instances that preceded the first radio broadcast, the introduction of vacuum tube equipment



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promised to revolutionize radio, even during the period of war. This vacuum tube was a tube which permitted modulation of sound. In early 1917 there were many broadcast experiments which were considered as amateur. However, all amateur and commercial use of radio came to an abrupt stop on April 7, 1917 because of the entry of the United States into World War One. At this time most private U.S. radio stations were ordered by the President to close their stations, and for those which didn't obey, the government could take them over by force. During war time it became illegal for private U.S. citizens to even possess an operational radio transmitter or receiver. In fact, radio in the U.S. had become a government monopoly, in charge of the Navy, whose main goal was to prevent the intrusion of spies.

During wartime radio was militarily important, on one side. Let's say, for example, that in August, 1914, the Belgians destroyed a main international communications station located near Brussels, in order to keep it from falling into the hands of the advancing German army. Furthermore, the Germans used radio transmissions to help airships navigate to their bombing targets. On the other side, radio remained unavailable for the general public, but available for wounded soldiers.



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In 1919, the amateurs began returning to civilian life, but this time the development of vacuum-tube equipment helped greatly to advance amateur radio. Although there was concern that amateur radio stations would not be allowed to return to the airwaves after the war, that same year the wartime restrictions were ended. And the next few years would see tremendous steps, so that amateurs adopted vacuum-tube technology and began transmitting on shortwave frequencies, which resulted in significant increases in range and reliability. In this way, regular broadcasts appeared to be going up, spreading broadcasting activities and using at the same time all the available advantages of the vacuum tube equipment.

The next year the radio industry became profitable and marked the definitive start of radio broadcasting, on November 2, 1920, when Westinghouse's KDKA-Pittsburgh broadcast occurred. Following this event four well-financed stations in Pittsburgh, Boston, Chicago, and New York City also had their own broadcasts. And by September, 1923, the number of radio homes had greatly increased.

At this point it is suitable to be more profound in this topic and talk about the KDKA radio broadcast in the United States, since it was the first legal radio in the U.S.A., even



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though there were many others that appeared at the same time.

KDKA's began with the efforts of Frank Conrad, who had operated KDKA's predecessor, 75- watt 8XK from the Pittsburgh suburb of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania. From 1916 on Dr. Frank Conrad was an assistant Chief Engineer of Pittsburg's Westinghouse Electric Company. He had first become interested in radio in 1912. In order to settle a \$5.00 bet with a co-worker on the accuracy of his \$12.00 watch, Conrad built a small receiver to hear time signals from the Naval Observatory in Arlington, and Conrad won the bet. For several years, Conrad operated experimental broadcasts from 8XK in his garage. That same year, 1916, Conrad's musical offerings proved unexpectedly popular, and his operations continued until his employer, the Westinghouse Electric Company, realized the potential of this new medium and applied for an official broadcasting license.

In the 1920s, KDKA played popular music and, because of the demands of a growing program service, KDKA, in January of 1921, hired the world's first full-time radio announcer. He was Harold W. Arlin, a young electrical engineer who was then employed at Westinghouse. Arlin wandered over to inspect the operation of KDKA, just to



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satisfy his curiosity. When he discovered the station was looking for an announcer, he applied for and got the job.

For the first six months of its existence, KDKA was a radio station without a studio. However, in May of 1921, it set up a tent on the roof next to the transmitter room. This tent-studio served admirably all summer long and left its lessons to guide engineers in the use of drapes and acoustical boards in building future indoor studios.

In the next several years, KDKA had studios in Pittsburgh's William Penn Hotel and in the Westinghouse Building in East Pittsburgh. Starting in 1934, KDKA studios occupied the entire third floor of the Grant Building, and in 1956 KDKA Radio moved to the newly constructed Gateway Center, where KDKA Radio and TV are still today.

On July 2, 1921, the station presented the first national broadcast, with live commentary of the Jack Dempsey – George Carpenter fight via teletype from New Jersey. Also in 1921 the station had the first broadcasts of major league professional baseball games. KDKA hosted political comedian Will Rogers in his very first radio appearance in 1922. Advertisers began sponsoring special radio programs on KDKA like *The Philco Hour*, *The Maxwell House Hour* and *The Wrigley Party*.



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In January of 1923, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company began experiments that would link radio stations across the country, creating the first radio network. KDKA Radio was one of four original stations on the AT&T Network.

After NBC was established in 1926, KDKA Radio (which was found at 980 on the dial at that time) was one of the first to join NBC's Blue Network. By 1939, there were 65 stations on the Blue Network, and several programs from Pittsburgh were carried on the whole network. In 1941, KDKA shifted to NBC's Red Network.

In the 1980's, KDKA became the world's first radio station to broadcast in AM stereo. KDKA's commitment to news and information remained as strong as ever. KDKA Radio was the proud winner of four Joe Snyder awards for outstanding overall news service in the state of Pennsylvania, an honor conferred by the Associated Press.

One of KDKA's biggest changes came in the 1990's. KDKA built upon its strengths and switched from a full-service format, which included music, to a news/talk format. The historic moment came in April of 1992, when Larry Richert played the last song aired as a regular part of KDKA Radio programming: Don McLean's "American Pie." For



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many listeners, it was "the day the music died." They also offered extensive coverage of the Gulf War and the tragic crash of USAir flight 427 in September of 1994.

News Radio 1020 KDKA continues to be Pittsburgh's Information Source. In September of 2001, KDKA offered listeners "wall-to-wall" coverage of the attacks on America and provided the KDKA airwaves to listeners who felt the need to talk about this terrible act. News Radio 1020 KDKA was the only source for credible, life-saving information during the early hours of the surprise September flooding in 2004. In October of 2005 they were proud to celebrate the 85th anniversary of broadcasting with the Pittsburgh Symphony in a unique program called 'The Newsical.'

Although their programs, format, and personalities have changed through the years, one thing has remained the same: KDKA has been and is a source for news and information and a constant companion for listeners.

2.3 IMMIGRATION ACT

What is immigration for us? It is good if we start answering this question by saying that we have to start taking into account the term "migration". It means that people move from one place to another, generally speaking. But there are also two terms to take into account, which are



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immigration and emigration. The first one has to do with people or groups of people moving into the same territory, and the second one has to do with people or groups of people moving outside a country, from one country to another, whether or not from one continent to another.

In fact, immigration has been a universal phenomenon, since even ancient people were pioneering migration. For instance, let's say that the first immigrants were Asian people who travelled across the Strait of Bering a long time ago to the American continent. Later, many European people began to migrate too, with the discovery of the new world; consequently, the boom of migration, immigration, and emigration started and still takes place in our time.

Our main focus on this topic is to talk about the immigration act of 1929, but we should take a quick look at the first immigration policies that took place in the United States after and even before War World One, for the immigration act of 1929 was adapted from the early acts in the USA, sometimes in favor of and sometimes against big waves of immigrants arriving in North America.

Immigration to the USA has occurred since the beginning. People have moved to the USA in search of



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good fortune. However, although immigration to the USA was much easier before 1882, with time and increasing population the U.S.A. authority put in place newer immigration policies and mechanisms. After that, with the elections of 1920, the age of Republican ascendancy started. This period was characterized by the high taxes that were imposed. By this time the North American Congress had changed the traditional policies regarding immigration in the United States, to a policy with no restrictions for immigrants entering North America.

Ellis Island, located in the Bay of New York, is the symbol of immigration, since the first immigration center was located on this island, which between 1892 and 1954 controlled the entry of 20 million immigrants, approximately.

From 1880 on, early immigration laws strove to protect the largely European racial, religious, and ethnic composition of the United States and expelled nonwhites like the Chinese with the Exclusion Act of 1882. Next, The Americans wanted to stop the immigration flow, and the Emergency Quota Act of the year 1921 was passed. Its main purpose was to encourage immigration from northern and western European countries and discourage immigrants from eastern and southern Europe.



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In the year 1921, Congress began setting immigration quotas, that is, a maximum number of immigrants that are permitted or needed. Then, under the immigration act of 1924, the number of immigrants allowed from different countries was based on the percentage of the nationalities already living in the USA by that time. In fact, these quotas reduced immigration from southeastern Europe and favored the northwestern countries of Europe, as expected.

In the very beginning, the National Quota Act of 1924 contained two quota provisions. The first one, effective until June 30, 1927, set the annual quota of any nationality at two percent of the number of foreign- born. The second one set the annual nationality quota at two percent of the number of foreign- born persons of such nationality resident in the continental United States in 1890, a total quota of 164, 667.

From July 1, 1927 to July 1, 1929 the annual quota for any country or nationality had the same relation to 150,000 as the number of inhabitants in the continental United States. Preference quota status was established for unmarried children under 21; for parents; for wives and husbands aged 21 and over; and for quota immigrants aged 21 and over who were skilled in agriculture, together with their wives and dependent children under age 16.



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Non-quota status was granted to: wives and unmarried children under 18; natives of Western Hemisphere countries, with their families; non-immigrants; and certain others. In the ten years following 1900, about 200,000 Italians immigrated annually. With the imposition of the 1924 quota, 4,000 per year were allowed. At the same time, the annual quota for Germany was over 57,000. 86% of the 155,000 permitted entries came from Northern European countries, with Germany, Britain, and Ireland with the highest quotas. However, the act set no limits on immigration from Latin America.

The National Origins Act of 1929 used the following proportion to calculate the number of people to be admitted yearly from each nation. The relation was established as that nation's ethnic population in the United States in 1920 to 120,000, in regard to 150,000. In other words, if there were 60,000 people from a certain country, the yearly immigration ceiling for that country would be 75,000 people, preserving the ethnic relation of the United States.

On February 4, 1929, Dr. Joseph A. Hill presented a plan for immigration quotas based on national origin to the United States Senate immigration committee. Hill was the chief statistician of the Census Bureau and chairman of the Quota Board, a committee under the departments of State,



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Commerce, and Labor. Congress had mandated the board to distribute the quotas under the Immigration Act of 1924. That law restricted immigration into the United States to 150,000 a year based on quotas, which were to be determined for countries in the same proportion that the American people traced their origins to those countries, through immigration or the immigration of their descendants.

This was the third time in as many years that Hill had submitted a plan to Congress, and again members of Congress interrogated him as to the accuracy of his statistics. Hill's professional authority as one of the nation's leading demographers rested on a thirty-year term at the Census Bureau and was manifest in his patrician appearance. But determining the national origins quotas was arguably the most difficult challenge of his career.

In short, the immigration acts of 1921 and 1924 found their boom in the year 1929, when Herbert Clark Hoover was elected president of the United States of America, promising a prosperous future to North America, but in the middle of the road, without realizing it, the United States of America entered the period of the Great Depression.



2.4 THE GREAT DEPRESSION IN 1929

The Great Depression was a worldwide economic downturn starting in most places in 1929 and ending at different times in the 1930s or early 1940s in different countries. It was the largest and most important economic depression of the 20th century, and is used in the 21st century as an example of how far the world's economy can fall. The Great Depression originated in the United States; historians most often use as a starting date the stock market crash of October 29, 1929, known as Black Tuesday.



The trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange just after the crash of 1929. On Black Tuesday, October twenty-ninth, the market collapsed. In a single day, sixteen million shares were traded--a record--and thirty billion dollars vanished into thin air.

The Great Depression was triggered by a sudden, total collapse in the stock market. The stock market turned



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upward in early 1930, returning to early 1929 levels by April, though still almost 30 percent below the peak of September 1929. Together, government and business actually spent more in the first half of 1930 than in the corresponding period of the previous year. But consumers, many of whom had suffered severe losses in the stock market the previous year, cut back their expenditures by ten percent, and a severe drought ravaged the agricultural heartland of the USA beginning in the summer of 1930.

In early 1930, credit was ample and available at low rates, but people were reluctant to add new debt by borrowing. By May 1930, auto sales had declined to below the levels of 1928. Prices in general began to decline, but wages held steady in 1930, then began to drop in 1931. Conditions were worse in farming areas, where commodity prices plunged, and in mining and logging areas, where unemployment was high and there were few other jobs.

The decline in the U.S. economy was the factor that pulled down most other countries, at first, and then internal weaknesses or strengths in each country made conditions worse or better. Frantic attempts to shore up the economies of individual nations through protectionist policies, such as



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the 1930 U.S. Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act and retaliatory tariffs in other countries, exacerbated the collapse in global trade.



Police stand guard outside the entrance to New York's closed World Exchange Bank, March 20, 1931. Bank failures wiped out people's savings.

The Great Depression was the result of a sudden selling of stocks that hit the New York Stock Exchange. Once it had begun the collapse of shares and other security prices could not be stopped. By 1932, thousands of banks and more than 100,000 businesses had failed; industrial production was reduced to one half of its normal rate; income from farming was cut by more than one half; salaries dropped 60 percent; new investments went down 90 percent; and 25 percent of all workers were unemployed. At that time, the Republican president, Herbert Hoover, advised employers not to cut wages. He also tried to reduce interest rates, and he attempted to support farm prices.



2.4.1 LIFE DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION



This family, the Wares, squatted on Terminal Island, California during the depression



Bud Fields and his family, Alabama, 1935 or 1936.

The Depression caused many farmers to lose their farms. At the same time, years of erosion and a drought created the "Dust Bowl" in the Midwest, where no crops could grow. In this so-called Dust Bowl, a massive area of the Great Plains consisting mainly of Kansas, Oklahoma, and parts of Texas, people found themselves unable to make a living.

On top of the economic crisis, the earth withered and blew away in a series of massive dust storms. For farming people this was disastrous, and these migrants were led westward by advertisements for work put out by



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agribusiness in western states such as California. The migrants came to be called Okies, Arkies, and other derogatory names as they flooded the labor supply of the agricultural fields, driving down wages and increasing competition for jobs in areas which couldn't afford it. This story was dramatized in the famous novels *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck. Life was challenging for those in Southern states also, and many migrated north by train to work in auto plants around Detroit.



Farmer and sons, dust storm, Cimarron County, Oklahoma,
1936

2.4.2 CAUSES OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION

There were multiple causes for the first downturn in 1929, including the structural weaknesses and specific events that turned it into a major depression and the way in which the downturn spread from country to country. Major theories proposed include the stock market crash of 1929, the collapse of the gold standard, the collapse of



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international trade due to the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of June, 1930, which raised US tariffs to historically high levels, to help protect domestic farmers against agricultural imports, and the Federal Reserve policy, among many other influences.

Today, the generally accepted theory is that the Great Depression was caused by inappropriate monetary policy. That is, that the policy pursued by the United States Federal Reserve during the years leading to the Great Depression caused a collapse in the money supply.

Theories from mainstream capitalist economics focus on the relationship between production, consumption, and credit, as embodied in macro-economics, and on personal incentives and purchasing decisions, as embodied in micro-economics. In these theories attempts are made to order the sequence of events which imploded the industrialized world's monetary system and its trade relationships.

Theories from Marxist economics focus on the relationships of the control of production and the concentration of wealth. For Marxists, the Great Depression is the kind of crisis which capitalism is prone to, and its occurrence is not surprising. These theories were more influential at the time, because of the existence of a



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Communist government in the USSR, an area which covered present-day Russia, the Ukraine, and the Central Asian republics.

The Wall Street crash is widely considered to be the event which ushered in the world-wide financial crisis. Economic crises due to the depression created great problems throughout the United States and much of the world. Consumers reduced their purchases of luxury products, and many businesses cut production. Big businesses, such as General Motors, saw their sales drop by 50% in the late 1920s and the early 1930s. This caused businesses to cut back on the numbers they employed, with thousands of workers losing their jobs.

When farm prices fell, small farmers went bankrupt, and in the USA many lost their land due to bank foreclosure. By June of 1932, the American economy had shed about 55% of its work force. On July 8, 1932 the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged to 41.22. The USA government tried to restore prosperity by spending on welfare and public work. This is termed the New Deal.



2.4.3 END OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION IN THE UNITED STATES

In 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected President, based on his promises to create Federal Government programs to end the Great Depression. Within 100 days the "New Deal" was signed into law. This created 42 new agencies designed to create jobs, allow unionization, and provide unemployment insurance. Many of these programs, such as Social Security, the SEC (Securities Exchange Commission), and FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) are still here today, helping to safeguard the economy.

However, the extent of the Great Depression was so great that government programs alone could not end it. Unemployment remained in the double-digits until 1941, when the U.S. entry into World War II created defense-related jobs.



2.5 IN 1941 THE UNITED STATES ENTERED THE SECOND WORLD WAR.



World War II, or the Second World War, is often abbreviated WWII or WW2. It was a global military conflict which involved a majority of the world's nations, including all of the great powers, organized into two opposing military alliances: the Allies and the Axis. The war involved the mobilization of over 100 million military personnel, making it the most widespread war in history.

In a state of "total war", the major participants placed their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities at the service of the war effort, erasing the distinction between civilian and military resources. Over seventy million people, the majority of whom were civilians, were killed, making it the deadliest conflict in human history.

The start of the war is generally held to be September 1, 1939, with the German invasion of Poland and



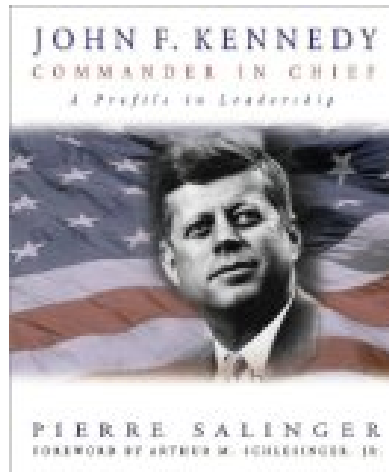
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subsequent declarations of war on Germany by most of the countries in the British Empire and Commonwealth, and by France. Many countries were already at war before this date, as a result of other events, and many who were not initially involved joined the war later. Some of the main events of the War are the Marco Polo Bridge Incident (fought between Nationalist China and Japan), the start of Operation Barbarossa (the German invasion of the Soviet Union), and the attacks on Pearl Harbor and British and Dutch colonies in Southeast Asia.

In 1945 the war ended in a victory for the Allies. The Soviet Union and the United States subsequently emerged as the world's superpowers, setting the stage for the Cold War, which lasted for the next 45 years. The United Nations was formed in the hope of preventing another such conflict. The acceptance of self-determination accelerated decolonization movements in Asia and Africa, while Western Europe itself began moving toward integration.



2.6 IN 1961 JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES



John Fitzgerald Kennedy was born on May 29, 1917 in Brookline, Massachusetts. Kennedy was often referred to by his initials JFK. He was the 35th President of the United States. His parents were Joseph P. Kennedy and Rose Fitzgerald. JFK entered the Navy in 1940 after graduation from Harvard. Back from the war, he became a Democratic Congressman from the Boston area, advancing in 1953 to the Senate. He married Jacqueline Bouvier on September 12, 1953. In 1955, while recuperating from a back operation, he wrote "Profiles in Courage," and won the Pulitzer Prize in history.



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In 1960 Kennedy gained the Democratic Party's nomination for President. Millions watched his television debates with the Republican candidate, Richard M. Nixon. Winning by a narrow margin in the popular vote, Kennedy became the youngest man elected President, and the first Roman Catholic.

President Kennedy's economic programs launched the country on its longest sustained expansion since World War II. He also took vigorous action in the cause of equal rights, calling for new civil rights legislation.

2.6.1 CIVIL RIGHTS



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The turbulent end of state-sanctioned racial discrimination was one of the most pressing domestic issues of Kennedy's era. The United States Supreme Court had ruled in 1954 in *Brown v. Board of Education* that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. However, many schools, especially in southern states, did not obey the Supreme Court's judgment. Segregation on buses, in restaurants, movie theaters, bathrooms, and other public places remained. Kennedy supported racial integration and civil rights, and during the 1960 campaign he telephoned Coretta Scott King, wife of the jailed Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., which perhaps drew some additional black support to his candidacy. John and Robert Kennedy's intervention secured the early release of King from jail.

In 1962, James Meredith tried to enroll at the University of Mississippi, but he was prevented from doing so by white students. Kennedy responded by sending some 400 federal marshals and 3,000 troops to ensure that Meredith could enroll in his first class. Kennedy also assigned federal marshals to protect Freedom Riders.

As President, Kennedy initially believed the grassroots movement for civil rights would only anger many Southern



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whites and make it even more difficult to pass civil rights laws through Congress, which was dominated by Southern Democrats, and he distanced himself from it. As a result, many civil rights leaders viewed Kennedy as unsupportive of their efforts.

On June 11, 1963, President Kennedy intervened when Alabama Governor George Wallace blocked the doorway to the University of Alabama to stop two African American students, Vivian Malone and James Hood, from enrolling. George Wallace moved aside after being confronted by federal marshals, Deputy Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach, and the Alabama National Guard. That evening Kennedy gave his famous civil rights address on national television and radio. Kennedy proposed what would become the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Shortly after his inauguration, Kennedy permitted a group of Cuban exiles to invade Cuba in an attempt to overthrow the regime of Fidel Castro. The invasion was a failure. In 1962 the Russians began to install nuclear missiles in Cuba. When this was discovered in October of 1962, Kennedy imposed quarantine on all offensive weapons bound for Cuba. With the world on the brink of nuclear war, the Russians backed down and agreed to



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remove the missiles. Kennedy asserted that both the Russians and Americans had a vital interest in stopping the spread of nuclear weapons and the arms race. To this end his administration negotiated the test ban treaty of 1963.

2.6.2 HIS DEATH



President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, at 12:30 p.m. Central Standard Time on November 22, 1963, while on a political trip to Texas. He was shot once in the back, once in the neck, and was killed with a final shot to the head. He was pronounced dead at 1:00 p.m. Only 46, President Kennedy died younger than any U.S. president to date.

Lee Harvey Oswald, an employee of the schoolbook depository from which the shots were suspected to have



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been fired, was arrested on charges of the murder of a local police officer and was subsequently charged with the assassination of Kennedy. Oswald denied shooting anyone, claiming he was set up, but he was killed by Jack Ruby on November 24, before he could be indicted or tried. Ruby was then arrested and convicted of murder. He successfully appealed his conviction and death sentence, but grew ill and died while the date for his new trial was being set.

2.6.3 BURIAL

On March 14, 1967, Kennedy's body was moved to a permanent burial plot and memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. The funeral oration was given by Father John J. Cavanaugh.

The Honor Guard at Kennedy's graveside were the 37th Cadet Class of the Irish Army. He was greatly impressed by the Irish Cadets on his last official visit to the Republic of Ireland, so much so that Jackie Kennedy requested the Irish Army to be the Honor Guard at the funeral.

In the same way, Kennedy's wife, Jacqueline, and their two deceased minor children were buried with him later. His brother, the late Senator Robert Kennedy, was buried



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nearby in 1968. His grave is lit with an "Eternal Flame." Kennedy and William Howard Taft are the only two U.S. Presidents buried at Arlington.

2.6.4 NOTABLE EVENTS OF THE PRESIDENCY:

- **1960**
 - The first joint radio-television broadcast of a U.S. Presidential debate was held on September 26. It was between Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon.
- **1961**
 - The U.S. sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba was attempted without success.
 - Nikita Khrushchev, the Prime Minister of the Soviet Union, ordered the creation of the Berlin Wall, in June, to divide Soviet-controlled East Berlin from West Berlin, which was part of the free and democratic West Germany.
- **1963**
 - The Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed on August 6 by the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union.
 - President Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963 in Dallas, Texas.



CHAPTER III

OGDEN NASH'S POETRY STYLE

Ogden Nash's strongest style in his writing was humor, but he had many others. One of his techniques was to write some of his lines of uneven lengths. He also misspelled and made up words to make them rhyme and sound humorous, which was strange since he went to Harvard, a very serious school. Nash didn't use many devices, except a lot of humor, which might not really be a device. He often wrote about animals. It makes his poems more interesting. Here are some "animal" poems of his:

3.1 SOME POEMS ABOUT ANIMALS

THE CAT



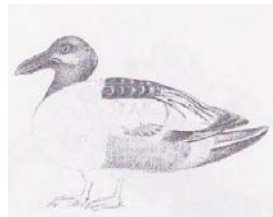
You get a wife, you get a house,
Eventually you get a mouse.
You get some words regarding mice,
You get a kitty in a trice.
By two A.M., or thereabout,
The mouse is in, the cat is out.
It dawns upon you, in your cot,



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The mouse is silent, the cat is not.
Instead of Pussy, says your spouse,
You should have bought another mouse.

THE DUCK

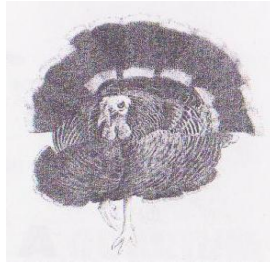


Behold the duck.
It does not cluck.
A cluck it lacks.
It quacks.
It is specially fond
Of a puddle or pond.
When it dines or sups,
It bottoms ups.

THE TURKEY



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There is nothing more perky
Than a masculine turkey.
When he struts he struts
With no ifs or buts
With his face is apoplectic
His harem grows hectic,
And when he globes
Their universe wobbles..

THE POULTRIES



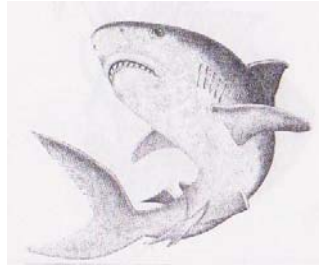
Let's think of eggs.
They have no legs.
Chickens come from eggs
But they have legs.
The plot thickens,



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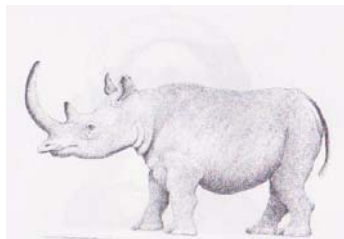
But have no legs under 'em.
What a conundrum.

THE SHARK



How many Scientists have written
The shark is gentle as a kitten!
Yet this I know about the shark:
His bite is worser than his bark.

THE RHINOCEROS

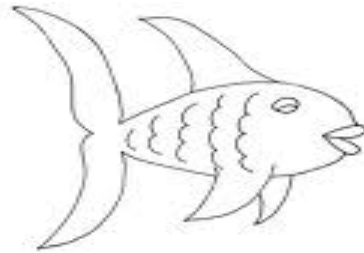


THE rhino is a homely beast,
For human eyes he's not a feast.
Farewell, farewell, you old rhinoceros,
I'll stare at something less prepoceros.



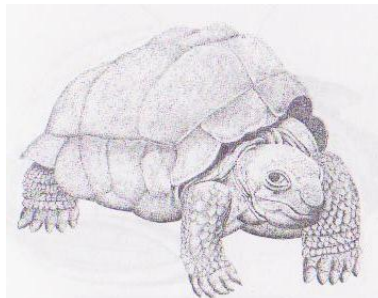
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THE FISH



THE fish, when he's exposed to air,
Displays no trace of savoir faire,
But in the sea regains his balance
And exploits all his manly talents.
The chastest of the vertebrates,
He never even sees his mates,
But when they've finished, he appears
And O.K.'s all their bright ideas.

THE TURTLE



The turtle lives 'twixt plated decks
Which practically conceal its sex.
I think it clever of the turtle
In such a fix to be so fertile.



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THE LION



OH, weep for Mr. and Mrs. Bryan!

He was eaten by a lion;

Following which, the lion's lioness

Up and swallowed Bryan's Bryanness.

THE ROOSTER



The rooster has a soul more bellicose
Than all your Ludendorffs and Jellicoes.
His step is prouder than Davy Crockett's,
As he swaggers by with his hands in his pockets.



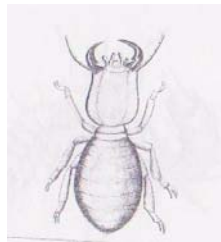
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THE PANTHER



The panther is like a leopard,
Except it hasn't been peppered.
Should you behold a panther crouch,
Prepare to say Ouch.
Better yet, if called by a panther,
Don't anther.

THE TERMITE

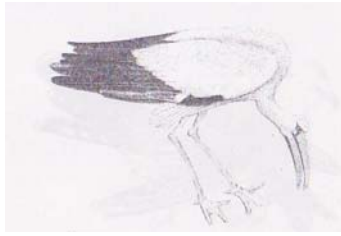


Some primal termite knocked on wood
And tasted it, and found it good,
And that is why your Cousin May
Fell through the parlor floor today.



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THE STORK



From long descriptions I have heard
I guess this creature is a bird.
I've nothing else of him to say,
Except I wish he'd go away.

FLEAS

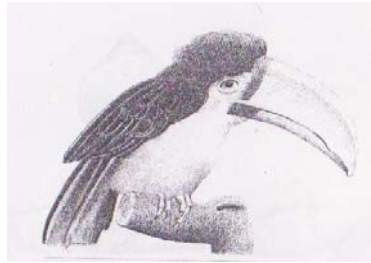


Adam
Had 'em.



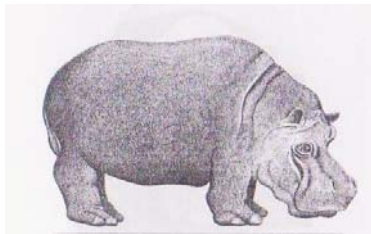
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THE TOUCAN



The toucan's profile is prognathous,
Its person is a thing of bathos.
If even I can tell a toucan
I'm reasonably sure that you can.

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS

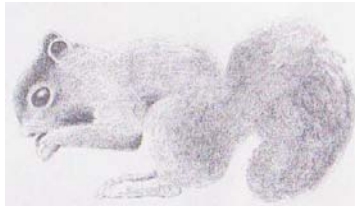


Behold the hippopotamus!
We laugh at how he looks to us,
And yet in moments dank and grim,
I wonder how we look to him.
Peace, peace, thou hippopotamus!
We really look all right to us,
As you no doubt delight the eye
Of other hippopotami.



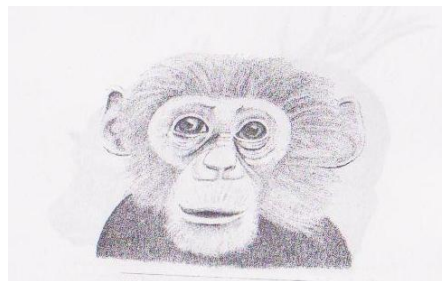
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THE SQUIRREL



A squirrel to some is a squirrel,
To others, a squirrel's squirl.
Since freedom of speech is the birthright of each,
I can only this fable unfurl:
A virile young squirrel named Cyril,
In an argument over a girl,
Was lambasted from here to the Tyrol
By a churl of a squirl named Earl.

MANHATTAN MONKEY



The monkey is
A child of whim;
Ethics mean nothing
Much to him;
His life is full
Of fun and zets;



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He turn his critics
With a jest;
A tailor and
A friend or two
Could make him Mayor
Of the zoo.

In addition, Nash wrote exaggerated poetry and comic poetry. First of all, we will define what exaggerated poetry and comic poetry mean. Next, we will give an example of each one.

3.2 EXAGGERATED POETRY

First of all, we have to take into account what exaggeration means. It means "to enlarge, increase, or represent something beyond normal bounds."⁸ So we realized how this word can have an effect on a poem, verse, or saying. In this way, we are referring to Ogden Nash's exaggerated poetry. Nash often wrote in an exaggerated verse form with pairs of lines that rhyme, but are of dissimilar length and irregular meter.

For example, the critic Morris Bishop, when reviewing Nash's 1962 *Everyone But Thee and Me*, offered up this lyrical commentary on Nash's style:



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Free from flashiness, free from trashiness
Is the essence of ogdenashiness.
Rich, original, rash and rational
Stands the monument ogdenational!

Nash's poetry was often a playful twist on an old saying or poem. He expressed this playfulness in what is perhaps his most famous rhyme. Nash observed the following in a turn of Joyce Kilmer's words "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree."

I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall,
I'll never see a tree at all.

Similarly, in *Reflections on Ice-Breaking* he wrote:

Candy
Is dandy
But liquor
Is quicker.

He also commented:

I often wonder which is mine:
Tolerance, or a rubber spine?



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His one-line observations are often quoted.

People who work sitting down get paid more than people who work standing up.

Progress might have been all right once, but it has gone on too long.

3.3 COMEDY

We have to think about what comedy means. It means "a dramatic or poetic work that is humorous and usually has a happy ending."⁹ In this way, we can make an examination of Nash's comedy. Nash was best known for surprising, pun-like rhymes, sometimes with words deliberately misspelled for comic effect.

For example, in his retort to Dorothy Parker's dictum, *Men seldom make passes/At girls who wear glasses*, he says

A girl who is bespectacled
She may not get her nectacled;
But safety pins and bassinets
Await the girl who fassinets.



3.4 CHILDREN STORIES

During the 1950s, Ogden Nash wrote more frequently for the children's market, finding success with such titles as *The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus* (1957), *Custard the Dragon* (1959), and *Girls are Silly* (1962).

Nash believed that his writing was not just for kids, but rather lay in a gray area between child and adult worlds. In his numerous volumes for children, such as *Custard the Dragon* (1959), Nash continues his setting for universal truth. Nash's approach to children is neither condescending nor sarcastic, however; in fact, his whimsical yet serious attitude toward the young has gained him respect among children of all ages.

THE TALE OF CUSTARD THE DRAGON
BY OGDEN NASH



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"Saint George and the Dragon" by Raphael

Belinda lived in a little white house,
With a little black kitten and a little gray mouse,
And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink,
And the little gray mouse, she called her Blink,
And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,
But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.

Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,
And spikes on top of him and scales underneath,
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,
And realio, trulio, daggers on his toes.



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Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival,
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.

Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
And Blink said Week!, which is giggling for a mouse,
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.
Meowch! cried Ink, and Ooh! cried Belinda,
For there was a pirate, climbing in the winda.

Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
His beard was black, one leg was wood;
It was clear that the pirate meant no good.

Belinda paled, and she cried, Help! Help!
But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,



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Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,
And little mouse Blink was strategically mouseholed.

But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,
Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,
With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm
He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.

The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,
And gulped some grog from his pocket flagon,
He fired two bullets but they didn't hit,
And Custard gobbled him, every bit.

Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate victim
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the pyrate.

Belinda still lives in her little white house,
With her little black kitten and her little gray mouse,
And her little yellow dog and her little red wagon,
And her realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

Belinda is as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chase lions down the stairs,
Mustard is as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard keeps crying for a nice safe cage.



3.4.1 ABOUT THE POEM:

The poet:

Ogden Nash is well-known for his humorous poetry. Making up words and clever rhyme schemes make the poems roll off the tongue. His sense of humor has been a source of enjoyment since the 1925 or so, when he published his first book. By the 1940's Nash was well-known for his whimsical style and in particular for his children's books. His rhymes are original, funny, fascinating and sometimes border on strange. But that was simply Nash style, experimenting with linguistic combinations to discover new and refreshing quirks in everyday language.

What many people don't know about Nash is that he has the lyrics of several musicals credited to his name as well. "One touch of Venus," "Two's Company," "Sweet Bye and Bye," are among the musicals for which Nash wrote.

Meaning:

It's pretty clear that "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" is what we call a "nonsensical" poem. Which basically means it doesn't have any deep underlying meaning, and is purely to be taken at face-value, as a children's story.



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Of course the story does have a certain message. Custard saw himself as a cowardly dragon, and was even teased about it by his friends. When push came to shove, Custard was the bravest of them all when he defended his friends from the mean pirate. In the end his friends thank him, and acknowledge his courage. Custard didn't think he could be courageous, but he found out he could.

Definitions of some words:

In the following line from the poem, the name **Percival** is mentioned:
"Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival."

This is most likely meant to be the Percival (or Perceval, or a variety of other ways of spelling it) from the stories about King Arthur and Camelot. Percival is described in the legends of Camelot as uneducated, not well-dressed, and lacking all of the heroic qualities of a knight. This could be because he was raised by his mother deep in the forest and had never seen a knight, a sword, or for that matter, even a horse. Nevertheless, Percival manages (through dumb-luck, innocence, or whatever you might call it) to get the Grail that Arthur's knights hadn't



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even been able to get their hands on. So Percival could be described as a hero in sheep's clothes, just like Custard.

In another part of the poems, the following lines contain some strange words as well:

"The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon, and gulped some **grog** from his pocket **flagon**,"

So what in the world are flagons with grog? The dictionary explains the word grog as alcoholic liquor. In particular, the word is often used with rum diluted in water (rum was a favorite of pirates). Flagon would then logically be a container to hold the liquor in. And the dictionary confirms this, as it describes a flagon as often made of metal or pottery used for keeping liquor or wine.

Furthermore, the word "gyrate" may elude some people as well, as used in the following line from the poem:

"Ink and Blink in **glee** did **gyrate**."

Glee means delight or joy, but is used more often than gyrate. Gyrate means to revolve around something. In terms of the poem, it's basically a "ring-around-the-rosy" type of movement.



3.5 OTHER POEMS

Nash was a baseball fan, and he wrote a poem titled "Line-Up for Yesterday," an alphabetical poem listing baseball immortals. Published in Sport magazine in January 1949, the poem pays tribute to the baseball greats and to his own fanaticism, in alphabetical order. Here is an example from his A to Z list:

<p style="text-align: center;">Line-Up For Yesterday An ABC Of Baseball Immortals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z</p> <p style="text-align: center;">by Ogden Nash</p>
<p>A is for Alex The great Alexander; More Goose eggs he pitched Than a popular gander.</p> <p>B is for Bresnahan</p>



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Back of the plate;

The Cubs were his love,
and McGraw his hate.

C is for Cobb,

Who grew spikes and not corn,
And made all the basemen
Wish they weren't born.

D is for Dean,

The grammatical Diz,
When they asked, Who's the tops?
Said correctly, I is.

E is for Evers,

His jaw in advance;
Never afraid
To Tinker with Chance.

F is for Fordham

And Frankie and Frisch;
I wish he were back
With the Giants, I wish.

G is for Gehrig,

The Pride of the Stadium;



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His record pure gold,
His courage, pure radium.

H is for Hornsby;
When pitching to Rog,
The pitcher would pitch,
Then the pitcher would dodge.

I is for Me,
Not a hard-hitting man,
But an outstanding all-time
Incurable fan.

J is for Johnson
The Big Train in his prime
Was so fast he could throw
Three strikes at a time.

K is for Keeler,
As fresh as green paint,
The fastest and mostest
To hit where they ain't.

L is for Lajoie
Whom Clevelanders love,
Napolean himself,



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With glue in his glove.

M is for Matty,
Who carried a charm
In the form of an extra
brain in his arm.

N is for Newsom,
Bobo's favorite kin.
You ask how he's here,
He talked himself in.

O is for Ott
Of the restless right foot.
When he leaned on the pellet,
The pellet stayed put.

P is for Plank,
The arm of the A's;
When he tangled with Matty
Games lasted for days.

Q is for Don Quixote
Cornelius Mack;
Neither Yankees nor years
Can halt his attack.



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R is for Ruth.

To tell you the truth,
There's just no more to be said,
Just R is for Ruth.

S is for Speaker,

Swift center-field tender,
When the ball saw him coming,
It yelled, "I surrender."

T is for Terry

The Giant from Memphis
Whose .400 average
You can't overemphasize.

U would be 'Ubell

if Carl were a cockney;
We say Hubbell and Baseball
Like Football and Rockne.

V is for Vance

The Dodger's very own Dazzy;
None of his rivals
Could throw as fast as he.

W is for Wagner,



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The bowlegged beauty;
Short was closed to all traffic
With Honus on duty.

X is the first
of two x's in Foxx
Who was right behind Ruth
with his powerful soxx.

Y is for Young
The magnificent Cy;
People battled against him,
But I never knew why.

Z is for Zenith
The summit of fame.
These men are up there.
These men are the game.

Line-Up For Yesterday by Ogden Nash

Nash wrote about the famous baseball players of his day, but he particularly loved Baltimore sports.



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Nash wrote humorous poems for each movement of the Camille Saint-Saëns orchestral suite *The Carnival of the Animals*, which are often recited when the work is performed.

3.6 SOME IMPORTANT WORKS BY OGDEN NASH

1931 *Free Wheeling and Hard Lines*. Nash's first only collections of his humorous verses display the characteristic whimsy that would make him America's most popular and most quoted contemporary poet. Similar collections, *Happy Days* (1933) and *The Primrose Path* (1935), would follow.

1938 *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*. This collection of the poet's winsome light verse, gently exposing human frailties and the absurdities of modern life, prompted contemporary reviewers to compare him with Mark Twain, G. K. Chesterton, P. J. Wodehouse, and Ring Lardner.

1940 *The Face Is Familiar*. A collection of previously published works as well as thirty-one poems never before collected in book form.

1945 *Many Long Years Ago*. America's best-known and beloved contemporary poet collected his work from five previous volumes, as well as several previously uncollected poems.



CHAPTER IV

OGDEN NASH WAS

AFFECTED IN SOME HISTORICAL EVENTS

4.1 THE FIRST WAR WORLD

First, it is important to mention that Frederick Ogden Nash appreciated the American English language. He attributed this to his education. That began with his mother, who had received her standards from Professor Chenault. So Ogden and his siblings grew up exposed at home to the classics. It was the family's intention to send him to good boarding schools, but naval architecture intervened. The U.S. Navy began in the late nineteenth century to convert from sail to steam and from wooden hulls to steel, and the need for resin and turpentine began to dry up. Also, Edmund Nash fell at odds with the U.S. government, which began a series of lawsuits against his firm. The family's finances rocked with the shocks. Ogden went to day school in Rye for a time, and when he was about ten years old the family went to Europe, and he was sent to a boys' boarding school at Groton, Massachusetts. That year Ogden remembered as first six months of miserable homesickness, then six months of acquisition of a taste for Latin and a superior knowledge of the geography of Groton and



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environs, gained by frequent bicycle excursions around the territory.

U.S. enters World War I



On April 6, 1917, the United States formally declared war against Germany and entered the conflict in Europe. Fighting since the summer of 1914, Britain, France, and Russia welcomed news that American troops and supplies would be directed toward the Allied war effort. Under the command of Major General John J. Pershing, over two million U.S. troops served in France during the war.

By the spring of 1917 Ogden Nash lived in Savannah, Georgia with his family, but financial pressures finally forced the Nashes to give up it, and many of their furnishings from the house were auctioned. Ogden went to stay temporarily with his brother Ted on Long Island. But Ogden did leave Rye with something to remember by him. The United States had declared war against Germany on April 6, and the July 21 issue of the *Rye Chronicle* had on its front page a poem



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entitled "The Scrappy U.S. Sammy." In the fifth and final stanza, the poem concluded:

So the Kaiser may as well recall his U-boats
And the Hohenzollerns start to say good night
From now on they will sink but mighty few boats
For our scrappy U.S. Sammy's in the fight.

Just as affairs seemed to be at a low point for the Nashes, Ogden's father was at last successful in finding a new position as president of the Rosin and Turpentine Export Company. Two years later Edmund Nash would write, "After four years of patient waiting, Fortune withdrew her frown and I was offered a livelihood and an opportunity of which I have taken full advantage. New friends have replaced the old the present is secure and the future is full of promise." For Ogden it meant that his education would take yet another direction.

In the fall of 1917, Ogden enrolled at St. George's. The school had a good reputation, but it was not as well established as some of the other New England boarding schools. When Nash arrived there the school had 14 faculty members and a student body of 140, a new high.



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Circumstances at St. George's, however, were a bit unsettled on two counts. The founding headmaster, the Reverend John Byron Diman, who had presided over the school's remarkable growth, had resigned unexpectedly at the beginning of the year; a faculty member, Stephen P. Cabot, had been appointed headmaster. In addition, the impact of the world war was clearly being felt. Even before the entry of the United States into the war, the school had formed a "Battalion of Infantry" for military drill, students had rolled bandages for the Red Cross, and several alumni had joined the Canadian Forces or the Lafayette Escadrille. Now some of the older boys would be tempted to leave school and enlist in either the military or ambulance services.

The Western World was finally feeling the results of the Peace of Versailles and the accumulated overproductions of every sort of crop and many goods for war. The German mark collapsed, and so did the British market. The trouble spread across the Atlantic, so 1921 was a year of serious recession in America, and the elder Nashes were touched by the same reserves that sent the stock market tumbling. Ogden Nash's youth was totally unexceptionable, and he showed no sign of the genius he would begin to exhibit a few years later when he was



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involved in the publishing scene. He was a product of the Eastern Establishment, to be sure, but an establishment that was already beginning to deteriorate a little bit.

Ogden might have set out to work his way through college. But Ogden Nash did not. He faulted himself on that score: he didn't, at the time, have the necessary drive to do so.

4.2 IMMIGRATION ACT

Jews in the "USA" 06: 1929-1939

Jews affected by the collapse of the stock exchange of 1929 - Jews at universities - anti-Semitism and the "Christian" Father Coughlin - 157,000 official German Jewish refugees - New Deal and Communist fantasy - Jewish education congregations - racist Zionist fantasy and money collections



Figure 27. Anti-Nazi demonstration organized by the American Jewish Congress in New York, May 10, 1933.



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Immigration is always an unquestionable issue for a writer. There's no doubt about it. This time is not the exception to write something about it and how this social phenomenon influenced Ogden Nash.

It is certain that he didn't publish a book about immigration or its effects on the society he lived in. But he had to live in the middle of the coming immigrant waves. With the coming of the immigrants life became harder and opportunities to work were few, since the big waves of immigrants were coming to occupy different jobs. Nash's parents did suffer from this problem, and this is the reason why his family had constant financial problems. Fortunately, Ogden Nash could finish primary school and high school, but when he was in the university he had to quit it. The only year he studied at the university was not enough; however, he made an effort, and when he was 19 he found his first job. This was something great for him, because of immigration; it also made the search for a job a difficult task. This was the spark that contributed to his future life, and things in his life began to take shape, until he became a professional.

Nash had the fortune to find other jobs which at the same time contributed to his future career as a writer. He also learnt while walking on the streets and in the interviews



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he had to have when he worked as a journalist. And he also learnt from immigrants while talking with some of them, taking a look at their life style, culture, and other aspects that also contributed to his career. As stated before, Nash didn't publish any book about immigrants, but in his different articles he talked about the people he knew.

Then, little by little, Nash was overcoming his financial problems, and he had the chance to begin his successful career as a writer.

Nothing can stand alone in life; everything contributes with something. In this case, immigration was also a contributing factor not only for Ogden Nash, but also for his ancestors who lived many years before he was born. In this chapter we don't want to make reference to time. According to some people who talked about Nash, he was aware of his reality: so it is also vital to analyze its roots and go as close as possible to the beginning. Thus, immigration didn't only influence him as of 1902, the day of his birth, until the day he passed away. It had had its own influence on his life 20 years before.

In the previous chapter some information about the immigration act of 1929 is given. By that time, Ogden Nash was 27 years old, and the immigration act was applied, and



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many changes concerning immigrants were made. There's no doubt that Nash used his reality and his amazing imagination and tried to evade real life, or he preferred to relate and describe his life and his society humorously, so the people who read his humorous and satiric poems could forget the problems they had with life for a while, and then, after making his public take a brief recess from their problems, make them jump into reality once more.

4.3 THE GREAT DEPRESSION



The Great Depression was a big problem which occurred in the United States in 1929. Many people underwent hardship in that time, because many banks went bankrupt, many people suffered poverty, many people had to emigrate to other countries, and many people lost their jobs. In fact, Nash felt the effects of the depression, too, first in the salary reductions he experienced at Farrar and Rinehart. Nash's success in selling his verse provided a cushion against the harshest effects of the economic



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collapse. Also, his family was affected. For instance, Nash's brothers, Ted and Aubrey, had lost their jobs, and his brother-in-law, Culver McWilliams, had been forced to sell his seat on the New York Stock Exchange. During that time, Nash and his contemporaries Robert Benchley, Dorothy Parker, James Thurber, S.J. Perelman, and E.B. White, wrote about the depression directly.

For example, bankers were a favorite target of literary humorists, and also politicians and the government were other obvious humoristic targets in the depression.

Even so, during the great depression, Nash went on writing verse, even if he did not have enough money to do it because of his salary reductions. But it was not a pretext to stop writing. In that time, he wrote 3 books. The first one was *The Bad Parents' Garden of Verse*. That book provided a variety of advice to parents and children. In the second and third book, *The Primrose Path* and *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, Nash experimented with still another new form, somewhat strange stories entitled "The Strange Case of..." and consisting of one-line stanzas encumbered by neither meter nor rhyme. These poems probably exceed the most liberal definition of verse and are generally not among Nash's more successful efforts.



4.4 THE SECOND WORLD WAR



In the same way we are going to focus upon The Second World War, where Americans expected Japanese attacks. First, in November 1941, Americans expected a Japanese attack, but they thought that it would be toward the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia). Second, Americans were surprised on December 7, 1941 when Japanese bombers attacked Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii. This attack sank or damaged 8 battleships and destroyed about 200 aircrafts so The United States declared war on Japan right away.



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Then why not focus upon Nash's life during this time, since he contributed to this event, too? First of all, Nash wanted to make a contribution, so, on the day after Pearl Harbor, he telegraphed Archibald MacLeish, who was already serving in Washington as director of the Office of Facts and Figures, seeking advice as to how he might contribute. MacLeish immediately telegraphed a gracious reply but provided no useful information. Nash then attempted to join the navy, possibly to serve in naval intelligence or public relations, but a series of letters to the Navy Department in Washington and to the Fifth Naval District in Norfolk, Virginia, proved fruitless. But, after a time, he was recruited by the Treasury Department to make war bond tours and write slogans and poems for the war effort.



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On the bond tours, Nash joined other well-known writers, including Edna Ferber, Fannie Hurst, Louis Bromfield, and Dorothy Parker. One day, Dorothy Parker and Nash went on a tour to Pennsylvania. Parker and Nash were visiting schools, where they gave a speech in those institutions. They expected his listeners to laugh, but the kids did not laugh until a nun laughed.

For Nash, the depths of frustration were reached in one large city when, after the speeches had been delivered, Nash and his colleagues sat at a long table, prepared to autograph any savings stamps that might be bought from an adjoining booth. On that particular evening, sales were slower than usual.

Despite such moments, the war bond tours were less arduous than Nash's lecture circuit and at least provided him with amusing companions. What he found less pleasurable were his assignments from the Treasury Department to write patriotic poems. At the end of the war, Nash received a letter from Treasury official Julian Street, expressing his personal appreciation for Nash's various efforts and crediting him with having helped to sell \$170 million in war bonds.



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Nash's other contribution to the war effort was through the distribution of his verse to the troops. *I'm a Stranger Here Myself*, *Good Intentions*, and a 1945 book, *Many Long Years Ago*, appeared in Armed Forces Editions. These books were quite popular.

4.5 JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY



Finally, we will analyze the life and presidency of John Fitzgerald Kennedy. He was a lieutenant, like Ogden Nash. Also, during Kennedy's presidency a notable event occurred, the first joint radio-television broadcast of a United States presidential debate between Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. This event is important for us, because we can relate it in this chapter with one of the important events, that is, The First Radio Broadcast.

So, in this way we could make a comparison with Ogden Nash when he had the opportunity to appear on two of the



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most popular radio programs of the day, the *Chase and Sanborn Hour*, and the *Kraft Music Hall*.

Finally, we can say that all of these events were focused on and influenced Nash's life. The most important thing is that through them we realize how a historical event can affect the life of a person, in this case the life of Ogden Nash. This chapter has been very interesting to analyze because it served and helped a lot for us to develop our thesis in a better way, because it provided a lot of information that we didn't know, and through the analysis of this information we can establish comparisons and relations with these events and the life of Nash.

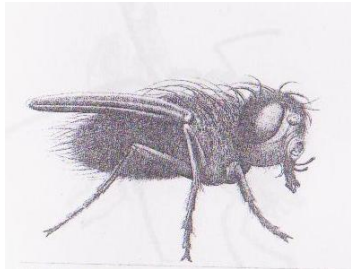


CHAPTER V

ANALYSIS OF SOME OF OGDEN NASH'S POETRY AND SOME FAMOUS QUOTES

5.1 ANIMALS

THE FLY



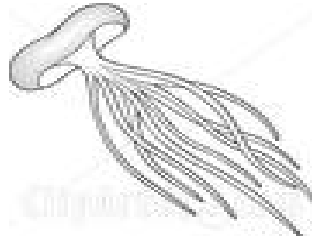
God in His wisdom made the fly,
And then forgot to tell us why.

In this poem, we think that God is trying to tell us how big are his power, his wisdom, and his imagination, since he could create big and small things, animals, and people, so we can say that his creation doesn't have limits.

THE JELLYFISH



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Who wants my jellyfish?

I'm not sellyfish!

THE DOG



The truth I do not stretch or shove
When I state that the dog is full of love.
I've also found, by actual test,
A wet dog is the lovingest.

In this poem, we can say that the dog is the best friend of the man, since a dog sometimes can be fonder than even parents, friends, a boyfriend, or a girlfriend. On the whole, we have to value animals as if they were people, because animals are part, too, of the creation of God.



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THE ANT



The ant has made himself illustrious
Through constant industry industrious.

So what?

Would you be calm and placid,
If you were full of formic acid?

THE RABBITS



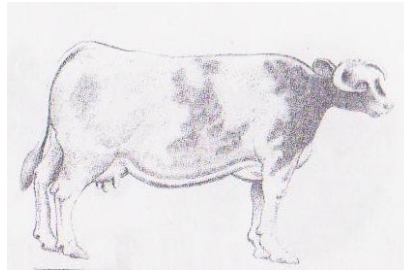
HERE'S a verse about rabbits
That doesn't mention their habits.



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In this verse Ogden Nash shows us that people on the world don't have habits in their life. We think that many people have or need to get good habits because if people got good habits of doing something, these habits can help to improve their style of life, their way of thinking, and their routines. The most important thing is that people would be more responsible for their things and obligations, and our world would improve in a lot of aspects such as a good culture, education, and politics.

THE COW



The cow is of the bovine ilk;
One end is moo, the other, milk.



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THE PIG



The pig, if I am not mistaken,
Supplies us sausage, ham, and bacon.
Let others say his heart is big --
I call it stupid of the pig.

In this poem we believe that Nash is illustrating that there are few people with a big heart, like pigs, which have big hearts. We mean that this kind of people is very generous, kind, friendly, and charitable with his family, friends, neighbors, or poor people. It doesn't matter if they don't have a lot of things or money; the most important for these charitable people is to help people who are passing a bad situation, either economical or moral, in that moment of their lives.

This poem teaches us that we have to help people when they need us. It doesn't matter about the situation or condition they find at that time. The most important thing that we have to keep in mind is to help people in whatever



situation because we have to take into account that in some day we can be passing the same situation, too.

THE PORCUPINE



Any hound a porcupine nudges
Can't be blamed for harboring grudges.
I know one hound that laughed all winter
At a porcupine that sat on a splinter.

This poem is one of the best poems we have read. Its grammar and punctuation are impeccable and full of literary devices. The poem is overflowing with creativeness. We think that people should read this because it will amaze them. Be aware, though that it is very scary.

THE WASP



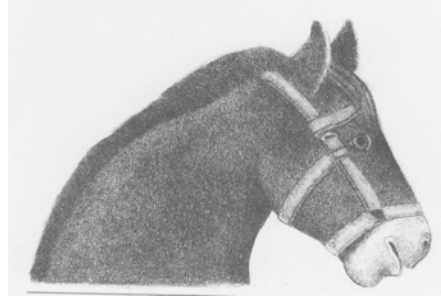
The wasp and all his numerous family
I look upon as a major calamity.



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He throws open his nest with prodigality,
But I distrust his waspality.

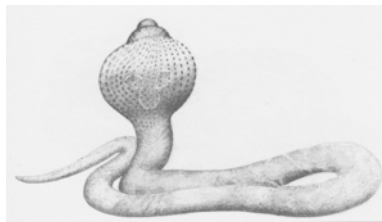
THE MULES



In the world of mules
There are no rules.

In this poem, Nash tries to tell us that we are in a world where the rules are made for a person who wants to triumph but a person who doesn't want to triumph will be like an animal and to live like a mule, without rules.

THE COBRA



This creature fills its mouth with venom
And walks upon its duodenum.



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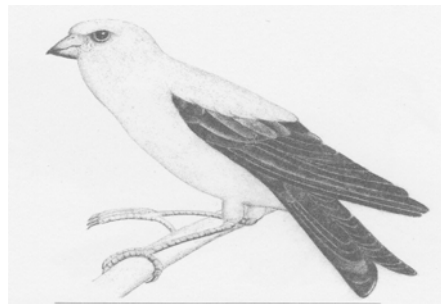
He who attempts to tease the cobra
Is soon a sadder he, and sobra.

THE SEA-GULL



Hark to the whimper of the sea-gull;
He weeps because he's not an ea-gull.
Suppose you were, you silly sea-gull.
Could you explain it to your she-gull?

THE CANARY



The song of canaries
Never varies,

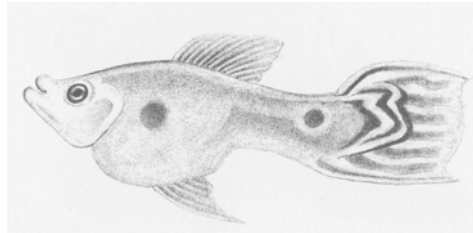


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And when they're molting
They're pretty revolting.

In this poem, Nash tells us that the majority of people do the same things every day, and life becomes a monotony. And when people do different things or move to another place there is a type of freedom.

THE GUPPY

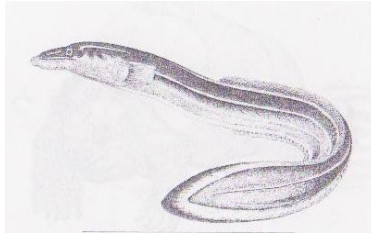


Whales have calves,
Cats have kittens,
Bears have cubs,
Bats have bittens,
Swans have cygnets,
Seals have puppies,
But guppies just have little guppies.



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THE EEL



I don't mind eels
Except as meals,
And the way they feels.

This poem typifies the work of Ogden Nash, a man of great
"light verse ¹."

In the analysis of these poems about animals, we have observed that Ogden Nash likes to write about animals because, as he said, "it makes the poem more interesting." Besides, we can say that Nash was a man with a lot of talent and the most important thing about him is that he was very humorous, as you can read above.



5.2 CHILDREN

THE PARENT

Children aren't happy with nothing to ignore,
And that's what parents were created for.

"The parent" poem illustrates how important parents are for children, since parents are so fundamental in the family life. So God sends parents to take care of, protect, and love his children.

REFLECTIONS ON BABIES

A BIT of talcum
Is always walcum.

ONE THIRD OF THE CALENDAR

In January everything freezes.
We have two children. Both are she'ses.
This is our January rule:
One girl in bed, and one in school.



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In February the blizzard whirls.
We own a pair of little girls.
Blessings upon of each the head —
The one in school and the one in bed.
March is the month of cringe and bluster.
Each of our children has a sister.
They cling together like Hansel and Gretel,
With their noses glued to the benzoin kettle.
April is made of impetuous waters
And doctors looking down throats of daughters.
If we had a son too, and a thoroughbred,
We'd have a horse,
And a boy,
And two girls
In bed.

In this poem, Nash shows us how his girls did different activities every month, in this case January, February, March, and April. Through this poem we realize that to have a calendar in our life is a good idea because we can be more organized and responsible in whatever activities we have and want to do.



GRANDPA IS ASHAMED

A child need not be very clever
To learn that "Later, dear" means "Never."

OLD MEN

People expect old men to die,
They do not really mourn old men.
Old men are different. People look
At them with eyes that wonder when ...
People watch with unshocked eyes...
But the old men know when an old man dies.

The "Old Men" poem shows us that older people should be treated in the same way as younger people because all human beings have the same opportunities, obligations, and rights, so young people have to take into account that someday they are going to be old, and they will not like to be treated in a different way. We can conclude by saying that it does not matter if we are old or young, we should respect people.



FAMILY COURT

One would be in less danger
From the wiles of the stranger
If one's own kin and kith
Were more fun to be with.

THE ROMANTIC AGE

This one is entering her teens,
Ripe for sentimental scenes,
Has picked a gangling unripe male,
Sees herself in a bridal veil,
Presses lips and tosses head,
Declares she's not too young to wed,
Informs you pertly you forget
Romeo and Juliet.
Do not argue, do not shout;
Remind her how that one turned out.

"The Romantic Age" explains to us how important our age is, especially when we are teenagers. When humans beings are living in an epoch of youth we can say that this



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time is the perfect time to fall in love and find somebody to love forever.

MY DADDY

I have a funny daddy
Who goes in and out with me,
And everything that baby does
My daddy's sure to see,
And everything that baby says
My daddy's sure to tell.
You must have read my daddy's verse.
I hope he fries in hell.

FIRST CHILD ... SECOND CHILD

FIRST

Be it a girl, or one of the boys,
It is scarlet all over its avoirdupois,
It is red, it is boiled; could the obstetrician
Have possibly been a lobstertrician?
His degrees and credentials were hunky-dory,
But how's for an infantile inventory?
Here's the prodigy, here's the miracle!



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Whether its head is oval or spherical,
You rejoice to find it has only one,
Having dreaded a two-headed daughter or son;
Here's the phenomenon all complete,
It's got two hands, it's got two feet,
Only natural, but pleasing, because
For months you have dreamed of flippers or claws.
Furthermore, it is fully equipped:
Fingers and toes with nails are tipped;
It's even got eyes, and a mouth clear cut;
When the mouth comes open the eyes go shut,
When the eyes go shut, the breath is loosed
And the presence of lungs can be deduced.
Let the rockets flash and the cannon thunder,
This child is a marvel, a matchless wonder.
A staggering child, a child astounding,
Dazzling, diaperless, dumbfounding,
Stupendous, miraculous, unsurpassed,
A child to stagger and flabbergast,
Bright as a button, sharp as a thorn,
And the only perfect one ever born.



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SECOND

Arrived this evening at half-past nine.

Everybody is doing fine.

Is it a boy, or quite the reverse?

You can call in the morning and ask the nurse.

In this poem, we can visualize how parents are curious, especially fathers when they know that their wives are going to have a baby. Many of them want their first child to be a son, not a daughter. Whereas their wives, when they know about their pregnancy, they get so happy to have a baby in their womb. In general, wives do not care about if the first child is a boy or a girl. For mothers the most important thing is to have a baby, which is their reason to live.

Meanwhile, when husbands know that their wives are going to have their second child, they do not care so much because many of them say "It doesn't matter if my child is a son or a daughter" Husbands are resigned to have a boy or a girl.



5.3 MARRIAGE

ALWAYS MARRY AN APRIL GIRL

Praise the spells and bless the charms,
I found April in my arms.
April golden, April cloudy,
Gracious, cruel, tender, rowdy;
April soft in flowered languor,
April cold with sudden anger,
Ever changing, ever true
I love April, I love you.

This poem is wonderful because Ogden Nash describes the bride and the season in a beautiful way. Also, he uses so many words which are so different but work so well together. His rhyme, his words, and his word choices are great. This poem is simple but very descriptive.

REFLECTION ON CAUTION

Affection is a noble quality;
It leads to generosity and jollity.
But it also leads to breach of promise
If you go around lavishing it on red-hot moise.



5.4 HUSBANDS

THE TROUBLE WITH WOMEN IS MEN

A husband is a man who two minutes after his head touches the pillow is snoring like an overloaded omnibus, Particularly on those occasions when between the humidity and the mosquitoes your own bed is no longer a bed, but an insomniac,

And if you turn on the light for a little reading he is sensitive to the faintest gleam,

But if by any chance you are asleep and he wakeful, he is not slow to rouse you with complaint that he can't close his eyes, what about slipping downstairs and freezing him a cooling dish of pistachio ice cream.

His touch with a bottle opener is sure,

But he cannot help you get a tight dress over your head without catching three hooks and a button in your coiffure.

Nor can he so much as wash his ears without leaving an inch of water on the bathroom linoleum,

But if you mention it you evoke not a promise to splash no more but a mood of deep melancholia.

Indeed, each time he transgresses your chance of correcting his faults grows lesser,



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Because he produces either a maddeningly logical explanation or a look of martyrdom which leaves you instead of him feeling the remorse of the transgressor.

Such are husbandly foibles, but there are moments when a foible ceases to be foible.

Next time you ask for a glass of water and when he brings it you have a needle almost threaded and instead of setting it down he stands there holding it out to you, just kick him fairly hard in the stomach, you will find it thoroughly enjoyable.

Adults talking about their spouses and all the troubles they have to put up with because they love them? In the poem "The Trouble With Women Is Men" Nash talks about the troubles women go through daily with men and how frustrating it can be. In this poem he goes through the daily routine of a woman and all she has to put up with from the man she loves. At the very end he writes "...just kick him fairly hard in the stomach, you will find it thoroughly enjoyable." Sometimes, women feel the need to release their anger just as men do, and Nash seems to understand that. When Nash married and had two daughters, the family had a very close relationship with one another. In a family of all women, Nash understood what life with a house full of



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women was like. His marriage and his children proved to be a strong influence on his work.

THE JOYOUS MALINGERER

Who is the happy husband? Why, indeed,
'Tis he who's useless in the time of need;
Who, asked to unclasp a bracelet or a neckless,
Contrives to be utterly futile, fumbling, feckless,
Or when a zipper nips his loved one's back
Cannot restore the zipper to its track.
Another time, not wishing to be flayed,
She will not use him as a lady's maid.

Stove-wise he's the perpetual backward learner
Who can't turn on or off the proper burner.
If faced with washing up he never gripes,
But simply drops more dishes than he wipes.
She finds his absence preferable to his aid,
And thus all mealtime chores doth he evade.

He can, attempting to replace a fuse,
Black out the coast from Boston to Newport News,
Or, hanging pictures, be the rookie wizard
Who fills the parlor with a plaster blizzard.



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He'll not again be called to competition
With decorator or with electrician.

At last it dawns upon his patient spouse
He's better at his desk than round the house.

**WHAT ALMOST EVERY WOMAN KNOWS SOONER OR
LATER**

Husbands are things that wives have to get used to putting
up with.

And with whom they breakfast with and sup with.

They interfere with the discipline of nurseries,

And forget anniversaries,

And when they have been particularly remiss

They think they can cure everything with a great big kiss,

And when you tell them about something awful they have
done they just look unbearably patient and smile a superior
smile,

And think, Oh she'll get over it after a while.

And they always drink cocktails faster than they can
assimilate them,

And if you look in their direction they act as if they were
martyrs and you were trying to sacrifice, or immolate them,



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And when it's a question of walking five miles to play golf
they are very energetic, but if it's doing anything useful
around the house they are very lethargic,
And then they tell you that women are unreasonable and
don't know anything about logic,
And they never want to get up or go to bed at the same time
as you do,
And when you perform some simple common or garden rite
like putting cold cream on your face or applying a touch of
lipstick they seem to think that you are up to some kind of
black magic like a priestess of Voodoo.
And they are brave and calm and cool and collected about
the ailments of the person they have promised to honor and
cherish,
But the minute they get a sniffle or a stomachache of their
own, why you'd think they were about to perish,
And when you are alone with them they ignore all the minor
courtesies and as for airs and graces, they utterly lack
them,
But when there are a lot of people around they hand you so
many chairs and ashtrays and sandwiches and butter you
with such bowings and scrapings that you want to smack
them.
Husbands are indeed an irritating form of life,



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And yet through some quirk of Providence most of them are really very deeply ensconced in the affection of their wife.

In "What Almost Every Woman Knows Sooner or Later," Nash talks about how eventually women will know, or at least try to understand men, and why they do the things they do sometimes. Nash shows an understanding of how men, at times, can be forgetful, uncaring, inconsiderate, and self-centered with his words, "Husbands are indeed an irritating form of life, and yet through some quirk of providence most of them are really deeply ensconced in the affection of their wife." Even with all the troubles women have to put up with, in the end, all those troubles do not matter. All that really matters is their love for their husbands. Nash's comic verse ranges from lighthearted to bitter and at times is completely and hilariously nonsensical. He used startling rhymes and puns, asymmetrical lines, and highly amusing parenthetical statements to create opportunities for surprising rhymes. He writes about everyday life situations that make them even more interesting and enjoyable. Men play an important role in women's day-to-day lives. Even with all of the headaches they may cause at times, women could not live without them. If women were to delete men from their lives, that would leave women with no life at all, even though at



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times, women would like to delete them. It is nice to know that a man, Ogden Nash, took the time to understand what a woman goes through daily. Now if all men would follow in his steps, we might begin to have a more perfect world. Once the men have taken a good look at themselves, it is the woman's turn to take a good look at herself.

MY DREAM

This is my dream,
It is my own dream,
I dreamt it.
I dreamt that my hair was kempt.
Then I dreamt that my true love unkempt it.

TO MY VALENTINE

More than a catbird hates a cat,
Or a criminal hates a clue,
Or the Axis hates the United States,
That's how much I love you.

I love you more than a duck can swim,
And more than a grapefruit squirts,
I love you more than a gin rummy is a bore,
And more than a toothache hurts.



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As a shipwrecked sailor hates the sea,
Or a juggler hates a shove,
As a hostess detests unexpected guests,
That's how much I love you.

I love you more than a wasp can sting,
And more than a subway jerks,
I love you as much as a beggar needs a crutch,
And more than a hangnail irks.

I swear to you by the stars above,
And below, if such there be,
As the High Court loathes perjurious oaths,
That's how you're loved by me.

This poem calls our attention because it is very funny and exaggerated; in it we can realize how Ogden Nash was a man with a good talent to write poems. It tells us about how a man can express his feelings to his girlfriend, bride, or wife, although it can be exaggerated.

TIN WEDDING WHISTLE

Though you know it anyhow,



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Listen to me, darling, now,
Proving what I need not prove
How I know I love you, love.
Near and far, near and far,
I am happy where you are;
Likewise I have never learnt
How to be it where you aren't.

Far and wide, far and wide,
I can walk with you beside;
Furthermore, I tell you what,
I sit and sulk where you aren't.

Visitors remark my frown
When you're upstairs and I am down,
Yes, I am afraid I pout
When I am indoors and you are out;
But how contentedly I view
Any room containing you.

In fact I care not where you be,
Just as long as it's with me.
In all your absences I glimpse
Fire and flood and trolls and imps.



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Is your train a minute slothful?
I goad the stationmaster wrathful.

When with friends to bridge you drive
I never know if you're alive,
And when you linger late in shops
I long to telephone the cops.

Yet how worth the waiting for,
To see you coming through the door.
Somehow, I can be complacent
Never but with you adjacent.

Near and far, near and far,
I am happy where you are;
Likewise I have never learnt
How to be it where you aren't.

Then grudge me not my fond endeavor,
To hold you in my sight forever;
Let none, not even you, disparage
Such valid reason for a marriage.



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A WORD TO HUSBANDS

To keep your marriage brimming,
With love in the loving cup,
Whenever you're wrong, admit it;
Whenever you're right, shut up.

This poem demonstrates to us how husbands have to be understanding and reasonable with their wives if they want to keep their marriage. When a man has to blame of something wrong that he does or tells his wife, he has to admit it, or on the contrary, his wife has to accept the blame. This poem is an excellent example for married people because it makes people understand that when somebody, either husband or wife, is wrong they have to accept their faults or misunderstandings.

THE PERFECT HUSBAND

He tells you when you've got
on too much lipstick
And helps you with your girdle
when your hips stick.



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5.5 MATURITY

UNTITLED

Enter, breath;

Breath, slip out;

Blood, be channeled,

And wind about.

O, blessed breath and blood which strive

To keep this body of mine alive!

O gallant breath and blood

Which choose

To wage the battle

They must lose.

PEEKABO, I ALMOST SEE YOU

Middle aged life is merry, and I love to lead it,

But there comes a day when your eyes are all right but your
arm isn't long enough to hold the telephone book where you
can read it.

And your friends get jocular, so you can go to the oculist,

And of all your friends he is the oculist,

So over his facetiousness let us skim,

Only noting that he has been waiting for you ever since you
said Good Evening to his grandfather clock under the
impression that it was him,



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And you look at his chart and it says SHRDLU
QWERTYOP, and you say Well, why SHRDNTLU
QWERTYOP? And he says one set of glasses won't do.
You need two.
One for for reading Earle Stanley Gardener's Perry Mason
and Keats's "Endymion" with,
And the other for wasling around without saying Hello to a
strange wymion with.
So you spend your time taking off your seeing glasses to
put on your reading glasses, and then remembering that
your reading glasses are upstairs or in the car,
And then you can't find your seeing glasses again because
without them on you can't see where they are.
Enough of such mishaps, they would try the patience of an
OX,
I prefer to forget both pairs of glasses and pass my
declining years saluting strange women and grandfather
clocks.

"Peekabo, I Almost See You" has a funny and light
side to it; however, it can be contrasted with a deeper and
heavier meaning. Nash describes a day in the life of
someone with bad vision in a humorous way. It's important
for the reader to know that he had glasses of his own. I
think what may be the deeper meaning in this poem is that



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he was feeling self-pity and was expressing it in an amusing way. He expressed this in "And your friends get jocular, so you go to the oculist, /And of all your friends he was the oculist, and he says one set of glasses won't do. /You need two." Obviously, he was not very fond of the eye doctor and is almost being sarcastic. All in all, Ogden Nash described a relationship between him, his eye doctor, and a grandfather clock.

5.6 OTHER POEMS

NO, YOU BE A LONE EAGLE

I find it very hard to be fair-minded
About people who go around being air-minded.
I just can't see any fun
In soaring up up up into the sun
When the chances are still a fresh cool orchid to a paper
geranium
That you'll unsoar down down down onto your (to you)
invaluable cranium.
I know the constant refrain
About how safer up in God's trafficless heaven than in an
automobile or a train
But...
My God, have you ever taken a good look at a strut?



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Then that one about how you're in Boston before you can
say antidisestablishmentarianism

So that preferring to take five hours by rail is a pernicious
example of antiquarianism.

At least when I get on the Boston train I have a good
chance of landing in the South Station

And not in that part of the daily press which is reserved for
victims of aviation.

Then, despite the assurance that aeroplanes are terribly
comfortable I notice that when you are railroading or
automobiling

You don't have to take a paper bag along just in case of a
funny feeling.

It seems to me that no kind of depravity

Brings such speedy retribution as ignoring the law of
gravity.

Therefore nobody could possibly indict me for perjury

When I swear that I wish the Wright brothers had gone in
for silver fox farming or tree surgery.

A CAUTION TO EVERYBODY

Consider the auk;

Becoming extinct because he forgot how to fly, and could
only walk.

Consider man, who may well become extinct



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Because he forgot how to walk and learned how to fly
before he thought.

In this poem, we think that maybe the caution to heed is
that the copyright holder doesn't like "A Caution To
Everyone" because the caution warns people of deplorable
traits particular to people like the copyright holder.

TABLEAU AT TWILIGHT

I sit in the dusk. I am all alone.
Enter a child and an ice-cream cone.
A parent is easily beguiled
By sight of this coniferous child.
The friendly embers warmer gleam,
The cone begins to drip ice cream.
Cones are composed of many a vitamin.
My lap is not the place to vitamin.
Although my raiment is not chinchilla,
I flinch to see it become vanilla.
Coniferous child, when vanilla melts
I'd rather it melted somewhere else.
Exit child with remains of cone.
I sit in the dusk. I am all alone,
Muttering spells like an angry Druid,
Alone, in the dusk, with the cleaning fluid.



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This is a poem in which Ogden Nash is talking about a tableau in which he is sitting alone at dusk and a child with an ice-cream cone comes near him. The ice-cream is of vanilla flavor and it drips on the clothes of Nash and makes them dirty.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN

Often I think that this shoddy world would be more nifty
If all the ostensibly fifty-fifty propositions in it were truly fifty-
fifty.

It's unfortunate that the odds
Are rigged by the gods.

I do not wish to be impious.

But I have observed that all human hazards that
mathematics would declare to be fifty-fifty are actually at
least fifty-one-forty-nine in favor of Mount Olympus.

In solitaire, you face the choice of which of two black
queens to put on a red king; the chance of choosing right is
an even one, not a long one,

Yet three times out of four you choose the wrong one.

You emerge from a side street onto an avenue, with the
choice of turning either right or left to reach a given
address.



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Do you walk the wrong way? Yes.

My outraged sense of fair play it would salve

If just once I could pull the right curtain cord for the first
time, or guess which end of the radiator lid conceals the
valve.

Why when choosing between two lanes leading to a
highway tollhouse do I take the one containing a lady who
first hands the collector a twenty-dollar bill and next drops
her change on the ground?

Why when quitting a taxi do I invariably down the door
handle when it should be upped and up it when it should be
downed?

By the cosmic shell shame I am spellbound.

There is no escape; I am like an oyster, shellbound?

Yes, surely the gods operate according to the fiercest
exhortation W. C. Fields ever spake:

Never give a sucker an even break.

"Unfortunately, It's The Only Game In Town" is explaining the hardships of life and how bad the odds usually are. He probably had experience making hard decisions in life, and had perhaps made some wrong choices. "You emerge from a side street onto an avenue, with the choice of turning either right or left to reach a given



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address. /Do you walk the wrong way? Yes." Nash was disappointed for making the wrong choice one or more times in his life. Not following the same pattern as his other poems, Nash describes the negative side of humanity in a slightly humorous way, although the purpose of writing it was probably not to make you laugh, but rather to relieve his own emotional stress. Obviously, in the only game in town, Nash had not played the cards right.

5.7 FAMOUS QUOTES

"Middle age is when you've met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else."

"Good wine needs no bush, and perhaps products that people really want need no hard-sell or soft-sell TV push. Why not? Look at pot."

"A door is what a dog is perpetually on the wrong side of."



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"Candy, is dandy, but Liquor, is quicker."

"No matter how deep and dark your pit, how dank your shroud, their heads are heroically unbloody and unbowed."

"The most exciting happiness is the happiness generated by forces beyond your control."

CONCLUSION

As the final conclusion we can say that in the topic: "Frederick Ogden Nash in His Time" you can find interesting information as real facts, sad stories, funny poems, and comic verses. We have chosen this famous and humorous American poet because we wanted to know more about his personal life because when we analyzed the poem entitled "The fleas" in literature three at university, it called our attention. For that reason, we decided to study and investigate all about his life.

In fact, we have read and analyzed many books about Ogden Nash and through this analysis; we have discovered



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how Nash became a very famous poet, and why he wrote many books, especially about humorous poems, and comic verses at United States. For instance, you can see amazing information in any chapter of the thesis.

In addition, we have realized how history is significant for any important poet as the case of Ogden Nash because it plays an important part in any poet's work. Also, we can see in what way some historical events of the United States affected Ogden Nash's personal and professional life.

Finally, we can say that in our thesis there is no comparable study not only about Nash's life but also about the role that poetry, especially comic verse, played in the modern American literary culture for children and adult people. In the same way, we can say all this hard study and investigation about Nash was very useful for us because it let us fulfilled our main objective with satisfaction, happiness, and the most important with success.

PERSONAL OPINIONS

Ogden Nash is for us one of the most commercially successful English-language poets of the twentieth century, and one of the few American humorous poets. He became



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very famous during his life for his funny works. His many poems were and are loved by both children and adults, although we can mention that in his childhood he had some problems of his eyesight, he didn't find any reason that could avoid him from becoming a good poet and writer.

On Nash's books we could find interesting information as good poems, comic verses, and song lyrics. The most important fact for us is that Nash also renewed his interest in children's literature by the 1950s. He believed that his writing was not just for kids, but rather lay in a gray area between child and adult worlds as you can observe in this thesis.

Thus, we can say that it was the most important point of developing of our thesis because we could analyze many poems not only for children but also for adult people. In this way, we are very pleased to have investigated about this interesting American poet and writer of the United States since we can read, study, memorize, and analyze Ogden's poems with our students either children or adults.

Furthermore, Ogden Nash, a humorous and outstanding North American poet was one of the writers we have never read about since we started reading. He had an unusual characteristic that is important for us and also



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called our attention since he was one of the poets who analyzed its surroundings in a different way that was applying humor to his lines. In fact, these groups of lines were able to make the task of reading a book an interesting activity for any person. The reader could be an adult, a kid or any other person.

From a different point of view, Nash was a kind of strange person because all the events that took place in his life made him in this way. He didn't depicted real events as he saw; he made it different by using different words and situations which at the end revealed the same reality. Perhaps, this is what it made more interesting about him.

In addition, if a person who loves reading poetry would find a traditional writing style, he or she could soon feel tired because he/she doesn't find something interesting or he/she simply finds something he already knows, but if the reader takes a look to a different writing style and difficult in certain degree, he would find something unpredictable and for instance, more interesting.

We have something to learn from him that is; we always learn something from a different experience in life and that an unexpected thing could appear day after day. He didn't put aside all his experiences, in fact, he made



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them part of his life, and, that is why he started writing and shared his life with the rest of the people.

Nash was not the kind of poet who included all his thoughts on his papers, he made of his hundred of papers not only his own thought or work but he also made a work written by himself the final result of the mixed thoughts of different people, in fact, he was not the only one who contributed to create a good book of story, of humor or any other kind, the people who lived around him also were the indirect authors.

Finally, what we can learn from Ogden Nash is that when we do something in life, we must devote all of our love as Nash did. He really loved writing because when death was approaching him to put an end to his life and his physical conditions didn't allow him to keep on writing, he didn't pay attention to the doctors' words and he wrote until his last minute on Earth. And this is something that can encourage anybody to go deeper in what we are interested in.



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FOOTNOTES

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 - 2 Chapter One, Page 8. Ogden Nash The Life and Work of America's Laureate of Light Verse, Page 36.
 - 3 Chapter One, Page 10. Ogden Nash The Life and Work of America's Laureate of Light Verse, Page 70.
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 - 6 Chapter One, Page 17. Ogden Nash The Life and Work of America's Laureate of Light Verse, page 197.
 - 7 Chapter One, Page 18. Ogden Nash The Life and Work of America's Laureate of Light Verse, page 256.
 - 8 Chapter Three, Page 57. The American Heritage Dictionary, Page 298.
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