

# AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

A FREE COLUMN FOR NEWSPAPERS BY TED KOOSER, POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2006  
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## American Life in Poetry: Column 295

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

The first poem we published in this column, back in the spring of 2005, was by David Allan Evans, the Poet Laureate of South Dakota, and it's good to publish another one today, having recently had our five-year anniversary.

### Girl Riding a Horse in a Field of Sunflowers

Sitting perfectly upright,  
contented and pensive,  
she holds in one hand,  
loosely, the reins of summer:

the green of trees and bushes;  
the blue of lake water;  
the red of her jacket  
and open collar; the brown  
of her pinned-up hair,  
and her horse, deep  
in the yellow of sunflowers.

When she stops to rest,  
summer rests.  
When she decides to leave,  
there goes summer  
over the hill.

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