

Age

I've just realised a secret that I was never told
From the moment I stopped growing up, I started growing old
For years I conquered gravity until I grew quite tall
But lately I have noticed that I'm losing after all
Not that I'm getting shorter – at least not very much
But my features are surrendering to gravity's tender touch
My cheeks are getting bigger and starting now to sag
My eyes are getting dimmer and each carry their own bag
All this subtle movement should stretch my face quite smooth
But in a cruel irony it's becoming much more grooved
Not everything's stagnated although it's very queer
Our noses keep on growing and so too do both our ears
The hair I groomed and tended and fussed with on my head
Has migrated from its birth site to somewhere else instead
On visiting the barber's, I just need the lightest trim
Excepting at my eyebrows, nostrils and ear-rim
Perhaps excessive ear-fuzz can act just like a shroud
Explaining why the older folk all talk so very loud
They totter at a snail's pace around the shopping aisles
Shouting at companions who're deaf and simply smile
We end up the enactment of Roald Dahl's weirdest creatures
With puffy, screwed up faces and much distended features
We stoop, admiring babies in the way that old folk do
Perhaps united in the fact that they are toothless too!
In innocence they smile back at an image they should fear
Not knowing this is how they'll look in just a few short years
If I could have my time again, I'd do it all – but quicker -
Knowing time's just like Teflon but really so much slicker
It slides away before you know you had it all to use
I wasted mine in work and plans and standing in long queues
For things I never needed but felt the need to have
Like the latest fashion, gadgets or a cosy for the lav
When all I really needed was my family and my friends
The people who stuck by me and will do till the end
Time's so much more precious now I feel it's running short
I'll spend much less on planning and admiring what I bought
To spend more on my loved ones and make sure they are told
That they're my life's complete reward for all this growing old.