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## Father's Garden

Jim Walker

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## Father's Garden

Daisies loop eloquently across the path  
To your secret place,  
Your hideaway.

This tiny Eden bursts with blossoms,  
Pledge of peach, plum and pear,  
Swarm of strawberry and cherry.  
Spraying down walls like Cameron Falls  
Cascades of grapevine tangle.

Yet in a dark corner,  
Jagged thorns of blackberry,  
Sinister silver of a wasp nest  
And the squalid smell of compost.

Twisting back apricot branches  
You snip off snails with your fingers  
To crush them with the rounding heel  
Of a cracked black shoe.

Humming your fingers through deep rich dirt  
You dream new wonders—  
Impressionist, sculptor of sun and seed,  
Life-giver.

—Jim Walker

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Jim Walker is chairman of the Communications and Language Arts Division at Brigham Young University—Hawaii Campus. He is the brother of Helen Walker Jones, whose poem appears on page 182.