



7-1-1984

## Grasshoppers

John Sterling Harris

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq>



Part of the [Mormon Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Education Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Harris, John Sterling (1984) "Grasshoppers," *BYU Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 24 : Iss. 3 , Article 12.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol24/iss3/12>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *BYU Studies Quarterly* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

## Grasshoppers

I walked a yellow field an August day  
 In bright and arid heat  
 That sucked the moisture from the skin  
 And stilled the birds—  
 Deterring every motion of any living thing  
 But grasshoppers.

They buzzed and snicked their wings  
 And rose in waves ahead and popped  
 Like corn in a heated pan.

I crossed my field again  
 In the low sun of January  
 Through blue and crusted snow that covered up  
 The stubble, but shrunk away  
 From protruding sunflower stalks,  
 Attesting last week's thaw.

On nearly every stalk  
 A grasshopper—a husk  
 With dry dead legs that wrapped  
 Around the flower base—  
 There since some October night  
 When seeking some reprieve  
 From autumn cold,  
 It climbed the highest thing  
 And clung to plant and life—  
 Like an old man gripping  
 Rocker arms or property  
 Or office to ward off coming frost.

—John Sterling Harris