

**The Poetry of Gary Charles Wilkens at [www.gcwilkens.com](http://www.gcwilkens.com)**

**Recollections of Childhood**

Paper plates and plastic forks  
can eat the pork and beans for you.  
You won't be needed.  
If you get a hotdog give it  
to the Kool-Aid.

The girl's bike is ok alone.  
There are other kids  
in the trailer park to ride it.  
You don't have to worry  
about the stray cats.

When the kids play in twilight  
they won't miss you.  
The gnats will give them  
the usual race as the sun  
melts into the black trees.

If you go missing  
it will be no great loss.  
Your mother may even  
stay home one more night.