

Ode to Quarterback Joe

Listen my children, and I'll tell you a story
of Quarterback Joe, who dreamed of great glory.

Near the end of the game, when the score was a tie,
Joe took to the field with a glint in his eye.

He huddled his teammates and described his game plan,
"I'll hand off to Bob. He'll run fast as he can.

"And after that play, Bob will run it some more.
Then I'll pass it to Jay, and we'll win when we score!"

The guys cheered and clapped then got ready to strike.
Joe called the cadence, "Twenty-one, down, set, *hike!*"

But the running back tripped. He stumbled then fell,
So Joe had to scramble, and as he scrambled, he yelled,





"Receivers! Go deep! Run, run like the wind!
I'll throw a long bomb!" And that's when Joe grinned.

For Joe knew his arm was the best in the nation.
He could pinpoint receivers in far-off locations.

Because of Joe's talent, the defense was toast,
so he heaved a great pass toward the end zone's goalpost.

The ball was a rocket. It punctured a cloud
and just missed a plane. "Holy cow!" cried the crowd.

Then down the ball hurtled, the crowd leaped to its feet,
and Quarterback Joe cried, "The other team's beat!"

Joe's receiver leaped up, hands poised for reception,
but then ...

"Oh no!" groaned the crowd. "It's a dang *interception!*"

—Mark Weakland

