

## *The Gerbils*

RUSTIN LARSON

Happily busy in the middle of the night  
Destroying their cardboard tube. To sleep  
They make a hurricane of straw and declare  
This is the middle of us – enough  
Already. And their greatest achievement  
Is destruction. I love these animals.  
Happy enough with their cubes  
Of unhappiness for dinner and beads  
Of water from the metal tube. Cal  
Spins the luck of his wheel and Reb  
Files a song on the bars of their cage.  
And Wil stuffs his nose in his haystack  
And dreams of stuffing his nose in hay,  
All while I worry my life away.