

Compounding the Midas Touch

Twin boys with grass-stained bottoms, trading fun,
Small speculators learning the technique
Of save and squander, banking daily sun
While buying futures--tadpoles in the creek:
They're into land deals, studying the soil
By taste and feel and productivity,
Or testing puddles iridescent oil,
Then hoarding blue sky in passivity.
Their long-term interests earn at rising rates,
Their growth, insistent as mosquitoes' whine.
They welcome hungry canines at their gates
Yet show a profit on the bottom line:
Two sharp investors wearing torn shirttails--
With summer underneath their fingernails.

--Glenna Holloway