

AFTERNOON IN THE COUNTRY

A boy named Rick said, "Where's a stick,
I'm gonna kill a snake!"
Said Smitty, "Hit it with this brick
Then throw it in the lake!"

But cousin Joe said, "No, no, don't!
It's harmless if you give
It room. Just back away, it won't
Attack. It has a right to live!"

"Okay," said Rick. "Somewhere I read
All wild things have their place.
They can't do nature's work if dead.
I guess you've made a case."

The boys got on their bikes to ride.
Then Smitty said, "Y'know--
Life's not for people to decide.
I'm glad we let it go."

--Glenna Holloway