

## GRANDFATHERDOM

Thinking ahead, I see them  
suddenly older.

Sam's  
married to a quiet girl  
from Kansas or Tennessee  
or somewhere other than here.

Anna's singing at the Met.

Sarah as Sarah is Sarah  
as ever and Sarah forever.

I'll be a genuine dodderer  
by then, if I'm still doddering  
at all.

Instead of feeling  
happy, I feel condemned  
to feel the old fears I  
felt once for their father.

Will there be an accident?

Will some disease take them  
before they're twenty-one?

Will they still love each other  
as they love each other now?

This grandfather role is not  
what I expected.

I cope  
with aging and concern no better  
than I cope with death and love.

Nothing changes but the names.