

The Old Man Remembers

Friday night black and white scary movies
inside a blanket fort in the front room
Mom made Coolaid and buttered popcorn
early tomorrow it's Captain Crunch
and Saturday morning cartoons

at school I want to do well
so Mom says she is proud of me
I sometimes grumble about chores
cleaning my room, taking out the trash
I do them because I want Mom to be happy

"See you later, alligator!"
Mom says as I go out to play
Army men and Matchbox cars
making roads and tunnels and caves
in the ditch out front of the house

"After while, crocodile!"
I say as I close the door
One day I'm gonna marry Mom
the little boy I was thinks
We'll live happily ever after

The Old Man Remembers (continued --)

The years since were all too brief
Mom passed from Covid in March of '21
"Sorry! Too sick to email. Luv u more, Mom"
Through tears he again reads her last email
missing her, alone in his cell, he quietly, whispers...

"See you later, alligator."
"After while, crocodile."

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