

# The Little Things (three versions)

*by* Bill Yarrow

## **THE LITTLE THINGS (one sentence version)**

It's the little things that trip us  
up: a small hole in a level field,  
an innocuous root in a well-trod  
path, a disinclined sidewalk...  
yet not every stumble is a fall,  
even as by a certain age we've learned  
to outmaneuver the looming threat yet  
are still upended by tiny bagatelles  
and that's why age is a kind of irony  
for while we ponder the solutions to  
universal health care, world  
hunger, and inequalities of wealth,  
we are no longer able to safely cross  
the street or even tie our shoes.

## **THE LITTLE THINGS (exclamation mark version)**

It's the little things that trip us  
up! A small hole in a level field!  
An innocuous root in a well-trod  
path! A disinclined sidewalk!  
Yet not every stumble is a fall!  
Even as by a certain age we've learned  
to outmaneuver the looming threat! But  
we are still upended by tiny bagatelles!  
And that's why age is a kind of irony!  
Alone we ponder the solutions to

universal health care, world  
hunger, and inequalities of wealth!  
Yet we are no longer able to safely cross  
the street! Or even tie our shoes!

**THE LITTLE THINGS (question mark version)**

It's the little things that trip us  
up? A small hole in a level field?  
An innocuous root in a well-trod  
path? A disinclined sidewalk?  
Yet not every stumble is a fall?  
Even as by a certain age we've learned  
to outmaneuver the looming threat? But  
we are still upended by tiny bagatelles?  
And that's why age is a kind of irony?  
While we ponder the solutions to  
universal health care, world  
hunger, and inequalities of wealth?  
Yet we are no longer able to safely cross  
the street? Or even tie our shoes?

