

# Because Your Choices Were Poor

*by* Gary Hardaway

Foolish boy, you chose  
your parents poorly-  
junkie mother and who knows  
which irresponsible father.  
And this neighborhood,  
where you first soiled a diaper  
once home from that poorly chosen  
downtown county hospital.  
And how could you have selected  
such a terrible elementary school  
and grimy middle school,  
and the razor-wired and metal-detected  
high school you didn't elect to finish?  
With you, it's one bad decision  
following another and here you are,  
thug from a drug gang,  
starting prison, just turned sixteen.

