

Johnnie's Poem

Look! I've written a poem!
Johnnie says
and hands it to me
 and it's about
 his grandfather dying
 last summer, and me
 in the hospital
and I want to cry,
don't you see, because it doesn't matter
if it's not very good:
 what matters is he knows
and it was me, his father, who told him
 you write poems about what
 you feel deepest and hardest.

Alden Nowlan
