

The Redneck Nerd

(the liberal poet's grandson)

by Walter Lane

The Hillbilly nerd learned Math
 in After School Detention
 at Mud Creek Middle School—
 Spending 23 days in one school year
 with the Math teacher as proctor.
 His Mountain Dream High Algebra teacher
 let the nerd (nobody called him that out of fear)
 tutor other students in his algebra class.
 When the Hillbilly nerd's grandfather talked about
 fighting words, consequences followed.
 His classmates were afraid of the nerd
 because he characterized the self-described Appalachians
 as middle class Hillbilly wimps.

afraid of math
 afraid of words
 afraid of him