

For It Feels Like February 29th or 30th

Paul Violi

For we were made to reach for things.
For imagination extends life.
For our reach must exceed our grasp.
For in confinement imagination thrives.
For the *Book of the Month Club* selection
Has finally arrived.
For it is *The Life of Jeffrey Hudson*.
For it is a *February Classic*.
For a wondrous life he made.
For he flourished in confinement.
For he was a champion who scoffed at restriction.

For at age nine, though scarcely 18 inches tall,
He was gracefully proportioned.
For he was a page to Duke Edward.
For at a banquet he leaped out of a pie
Placed before Queen Henrietta Maria.
For she adopted him on the spot.

For he was made captain of cavalry.
For he was called Strenuous Jeffrey.
For he was tireless and heroic.
For firing from horseback
He killed his opponent in a duel.

For he was captured by Dunkirkers and imprisoned.
For upon his release
He was found to have grown taller.

For he was captured and imprisoned by Turkish pirates.
For by the time he was freed he had grown a foot taller.

For after the Restoration he was pensioned.
For as an accused conspirator in the Popish Plot
He was again imprisoned and again released.
For shortly thereafter he died
At the age of 63 at the height of 3 foot 9.