

## FOURTH PLACE

**Kerry Zelinsky**

### **THE PEACE OF WILDERNESS**

The grass is green, the sky is blue  
The air is clean, the birds are chirping  
Life is beautiful with the peace of  
wilderness nearby

Two children: a boy and a girl  
They play by the grand oak  
Flying their kite in the crisp wind  
Age: the boy and the girl grow into  
elegant young adults.

Father comes to the oak and finds  
his little girl crying.  
He tells her, "It should end soon,  
honey. He will be back."

The sky turns gray; rain washes over.  
Guns and fighting, shouting and anxiety  
Fear slides over the wilderness  
Shame arrives hauntingly; then  
silence

The grass is green; the sky is blue  
The air is clean, the birds are chirping.  
Life is beautiful with the peace of  
wilderness nearby  
A lovely young woman stands by  
the stump of an oak.  
She cries for her true love  
for he is gone.  
She cries endlessly, yes, endlessly  
in the peace of the wilderness.