

# SummerTime is for Dads

## Summer has Arrived

You know summertime has finally arrived  
when you open your car but don't get inside  
because the temperature is 125.

Rain clouds appear but then they quickly fizzle.  
We'd be lucky if we just got a drizzle.  
Any rain evaporates with a sizzle.

Electric bills will be astronomical.  
A high thermostat is economical,  
still, the kilowatt hours are comical.

Ten minutes outside and you begin to fry.  
It's so hot; you think you are going to die.  
That's the way it is in a Texas July.

But there is an upside to all of this heat.  
The beauty of summer flowers can't be beat.  
Who doesn't like the way the Crepe Myrtles creep?

Texas Sage is one of the plants I love most,  
but its magnificence cannot come as close  
to the colors of the Pride of Barbados.

This is the time for the river for swimming  
and check out the scanty clothes on the women.  
I think it's healthy, my wife thinks it's sinning.

It doesn't get dark now until nine at night.  
So we've got these extra hours of daylight.  
The July sun at noon is never so bright.

It's so hot and dry, even the rust has dust.  
And just when you think the heat index can't bust,  
you ain't seen nothing till we get to August!

—Don Mathis



*A painting can inspire a poem.*

*A remembrance can add texture.*

*A Father's Day reflection can provide depth.*

*The Esperanza Peace & Justice Center  
wishes a belated Happy Father's Day to  
all good men everywhere, every day.*



## Cloudy Memories

The stratus in the distance  
lies flat like a memory of a memory  
Grey recollections begin to form  
swirling, joining, dissipating, uniting again  
Mammatus memories begin to build  
shaped by the weight of lenticular light  
Remembrances rise like cumulus  
into the atmosphere  
Cirrus shapes shift,  
lifting on the latitude, altitude,  
attitude, all rising  
And there in the cumulonimbus  
near the top of the troposphere,  
I see the face of my father

—Don Mathis



Mark Maggiori, Once Upon a Time (image courtesy of  
Briscoe Western Art Museum)