**Lists**

‘Things I Have Been Doing Lately’ by Alan Ahlberg is a great way to think about the quirkiness of the ordinary.  It is also a list poem. His list includes ‘Growing taller’, ‘Picking a scab on my elbow’ and ‘Keeping a worm in a jar’.  I have written a few list poems, one of which was called ‘Younger Brother’ and began

He collects bottle tops  
Toilet roll holders  
Dead insects  
Bits of rock and stones...

it was actually about my son and was mainly true. Make a list of little things you like: often it’s more interesting than Big Important things. Or what can you see from your window?

There’s always something, even in the most unexpected places. All you have to do is get down to the small print, as it were.

The sill was white and now is grey  
And splashed by birds  
Long gone away  
The drainpipe tree  
Branches to next door’s  
Bath and lavatory  
Its sap does not rise  
(We’re glad to say)  
And in all its years  
It never has been climbed (up)  
By a cat burglar  
Or (down) by an eloping daughter…

© Trevor Millum 2021