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Childhood

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CHILDHOOD

By Leroy Thomas

CHANGES 1941:

A rich kid, a bully, a second-grader,
Taunts,
Makes fun of,
Picks a fight with, and
Bloodies the nose of a Poor White first-grader
Wearing sandals because
He has nothing else to wear.

1971:

That same rich kid, the bully,
Now an older undergraduate,
Wearing styles of the forties,
Approaches the once-poor White, A well-dressed professor
Wearing sandals Because it's the "in thing" to do,
And asks for help on the English Proficiency Examination. The professor laughs loudly in
His Composition Lair.

PRIDE

Male-heir:
Inspiring, self-assured.
Boasting, helping, loving.
How difficult to say no to that charming child!
Pride.

OUTSIDE LIMITS

Batterbatterbatterbatterbatterbatterbatter! Hecklethatbattersondontlethimgetahit!
Stompthatkidformamasondontlethimgetarun! Hitithitithitithitithitithitithitithitithit!
Goodsportsmanshipcouldbetaught Onlittleleagueteams,
Butwherearetheparents
Whowouldletitbedone?

(LEROY THOMAS, WESTVIEW Editor from
the beginning of the journal in 1981, has
taught English at SOSU since 1956.)