



Hans's New Clothes

Hans marched onto the playground,
For the Halloween parade.
Goblins and ghouls were lined up,
Kindergarten to fifth grade.

Music played and the line moved.
In his costume Hans felt proud,
But as he circled the field,
A hush fell over the crowd.

The parents gasped; the parents gawked.
All video cams turned off.
Some boys pointed; some girls laughed.
They could hear their teachers cough.

“Guess who I am?” Hans announced.
“Now who do you suppose?
I’m from a story my class read.
Do you like my fine new clothes?”

“The Emperor!” the kids cried.
“That’s the best costume ever!”
“From the Hans Anderson tale!”
“How creative! How clever!”

The parents in the crowd scowled.
Angry shouts blared everywhere.
“Someone put clothes on that kid!
That boy’s stark, buck-naked bare!”