

## Mama's Big Boy

Henry Hardee

JOT/ February 1999 (Road Maps)

I did not like school.

The day they took my up to Henry Suder  
and left me in kindergarten  
I almost lost my mind.

I wanted to go back home.

I wanted to know what  
my mame was doin'.

I wanted to know if Erika Kane  
had a new boyfriend on "All My Children."

I would not sit on the red circle.

I would not eat them peanut  
butter cookies and milk.

I didn't want to know them  
other ugly children.

I wanted to be with Mama.

I wanted to be holding onto her leg  
while she sat shelling peas on  
the back porch.

Miss April, my teacher, didn't  
want to do none of the fun  
things that my mother did

like whip up chocolate frosting  
from "Domino" confectionary sugar.

When I busted my pants  
she didn't even have a safety  
pin to fix them.

I did not like school!

I told Miss April if she didn't  
get outta my face

with "What color is this?"

and "What shape is that?"

that I was gonna tell my daddy and  
he was gonna come  
knock her down.

I was Mama's Big Boy.

I helped her carry the food  
in from the store.

I was Mama's Big Boy

when we didn't have  
enough money

I was the one

who told the insurance man  
that she wasn't homw.

I was Mama's Big Boy

and I had to go see if my  
baby brother needed his bottle.

I didn't have no time  
to be learning how to make letters!

I didn't want to be at no school.

I had more important things to  
be doing at home.