

## TV Heroes?

If you grew up in the fifties  
you knew they had it covered:  
Zorro stunned bad guys  
with a sword slash and Z  
on every shirt and mountain,  
the Lone Ranger and Tonto  
cleared up evildoings out West,  
and on the home front  
Donna Reed  
in her cocktail dress and apron,  
smiled, scrubbed floors, and  
baked meatloaf before Father arrived,  
after he'd worked all day at the office  
and fixed everything else.

And every afternoon  
the school bell rang at 3 o'clock,  
while we clapped erasers outside Mrs.Kramer's classroom  
then we'd run home  
to watch Clark Kent and Lois Lane  
muddle through the newsroom,  
solve crimes with Superman,  
though Lois never recognized him  
in his red and blue tights.

But Superman, where are you now?  
We thought for sure you'd zigzag the sky at hyper speed,  
carrying folks to safety when the towers fell,  
find weapons of mass destruction,  
or at least block tornados, earthquakes,  
and hurricanes,  
then swoop through the air with armloads of cottages  
and fancy stoves for cooking rice.

We were taught to believe in you then  
Kryptonite *always* disappeared by 5 pm,  
M and m's *didn't* melt in our hands  
and you, Man of Steel,  
delivered truth and justice,  
leaping everywhere in a single bound.