

Ode to Mrs. Mason

seventh grade teacher
taught all subjects with finesse
classroom held four grades

farmland country school
sentence diagramming fun
weekly spelling bee

just carrots, no sticks
blackboard performances cheered
errors gently coached

seedbed sown with care
career trajectory launched
my sprout has grown tall

sixty-two years hence
living still, in this haiku
thank you, Mrs. Mason



Photo: Knoxville school 1956-57

Mrs Mason: bottom row, second from left; Me: top row, center