

‘Ode to Play’ by Aditya H.

"O boundless laughter ringing through air,
Cartwheels in abundance, bounds to spare—
Tag, hide-and-seek behind sun and shadows too,
Play is where heart and questioning come through.

Hopscotch territories drawn on concrete stone,
Imagination weaves worlds alone.
From forests made of kitchen chairs
To ships on paper on puddles and prayers.

Songs knotted with skipping-rope chord,
A ball thrown shared promise, no scoreboard.
In play, we acquire, create, and dream
As 'let's pretend' is the day's grand theme."

Young or old, the invitation of laughter calls,
In halls, playgrounds, classrooms, gardens—
Let's celebrate today the magic we create,
For in play, wonder is always alert