

ilkley literature festival

Be All Write

#ILFWritingChallenge

Prompt: Write a sonnet with the title 'The Photo Album'.

Altered Images

A tousled boy in shorts squints at the sun
as bright in monochrome as ever shone,
a border - and seven years - have gone.
Kodak colour replaced Ilford's best, in one
more time-faded picture and childhood's done,
as teenagers move to puberty's Oz anon,
we see a halfling nearly Oberon
though they call him Bottom, perhaps in fun.

The hand behind the images slows:
blurred copies of self-timed, stiff-eyed poses
afroft scenes from the grand tour of growing
up and old and into our father's clothes
and not one snapshot shows the roses
we didn't smell - being busy going.

— Ewan Lawrie

