

**Charlie's Striped Overalls**  
**Marjorie Perkins**  
**Arizona State**

*tell a story of endurance,*  
marks of hard work  
stains of mud and sweat  
smears from farming challenges...

*tell a story of grit,*  
donning at sunrise each day  
tending to farm animals and crops  
cultivating the earth and nurturing life from its soil...

*tell a story of resourcefulness,*  
pockets stuffed with tools  
mending broken barbed-wire fences  
repairing milking machines and broken-down tractors...

*tell a story of innovation,*  
managing the daily milking  
separating for fresh cream and butter  
bottling and selling milk to local grocery stores...

*tell a story of resilience,*  
moving a flooded house  
recycling an old church into a chicken coop  
installing a generator before electricity came to the farm...

*tell a story of cheer,*  
whistling, laughing, and teasing  
summer Sunday's homemade ice cream  
chewing gum and butterscotch candies for the grandkids.