

Columbus Day

by Bob Boucher Dec 2010

Once in the third grade we all had to say
what happened on that first Columbus Day.
Columbus set sail on the Ocean Blue
T'was in fourteen hundred and eighty two.

The class was over. I'm walking back home
over and over reciting that poem.
I stopped by my gramps to recite that rhyme.
Who taught you that lie? Who was it this time?

Tell Sister Céline that she's full of stink.
She speaks with forked tongue, he said with a wink.
That Wop Columbus was telling a rhyme.
We have always lived here since the earliest time.

The next day in class I raised my small hand.
And what is it now, my brave little man?
My grandfather says that you're full of stink.
I think she was peeved, her face it turned pink.

Get out of my class. Get out now said she.
Run to the convent, Reverend Mother to see!
Grandmother's sister, yea she'll hear my plea.
Sure Matante Beatrice you're ok by me.

Up to the convent, I ring the doorbell,
A young nun answered, she looked really swell.
Mean Sister Céline "Out, Out" she did yell.
Get Reverend Mother or I'll go to hell!

I'm ushered right in Reverend Mother to see.
Now why are you here? So what is your plea?
Now what did you do? It must have been bad.
I didn't do Nothing! Please don't call my dad.

That Sister Céline said a great big lie.
It was all about that Columbus guy.
Grandpa said Sister; she was all full of stink.
When I told Sister, her face it turned pink.

Now come on Robert that wasn't too nice.
Stop tormenting her.
You've done it now twice.
She's an old woman so try being nice.

She called the young nun. Please make us some tea.
And bring us two cups for Robert and me.
Please bring us a plate of those ginger snaps.
Reverend Mother just loved her ginger snaps.

We talked all about Papa and Mama,
Pepere, Memere and Matante Docena.
We ate all our snaps and sipped all our tea,
Just Reverend Mother and yes, little me.

An hour went by, it went really fast
Sister Céline must have cooled off at last.
You can go back now but try being nice.
You have already tormented her twice!

I slipped into class not making a peep.
Half of my classmates were soundly asleep.
I'll try to be truthful; I'll try not to fudge.
My lesson that day: Always know the Judge!