

Roger Craik

## VALEDICTION

The new Latin master (I'll give his name later)  
selected some of us to read for the school  
in the Latin speaking competition.

It went, as I recall,  
“Velleius Blaesus, ille locuples consularis  
novissima valetudine conflictabatur.”

I stood, started with bravura.  
He snickered, doubtless at my Englishness,  
(though later I suspected more).

Now, new Latin master,  
over decades of success  
I give you the finger!

## HEREDITY

I made a joke about Malta.  
“Legless in Gozo.”

That was my joke about Malta.  
I have always been my father.