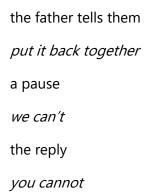
andokides

s.g.t. grasmuck

a father
takes his sons
into the forest
the older of the two
carries the rifle
they come to a clearing
the man places a vase
on a stump
after instruction
the boys struggle
to pull the trigger
shattered glass
youthful exaltation
the father leads them
to the fragments
we did it
cries the older
yeah
shouts the younger
both admonishing
and compassionate
the way wisdom
should be



s.g.t. grasmuck served as a sergeant in the invasion of Iraq and in the Battle of Fallujah, all with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. He is currently a stay home dad raising seven children while continuing his writing.