

## Editors Need Editors!

I like the kind of work I do; editing is fun.  
Documents look tidier, more finished, when I'm done.  
Add a comma, move a hyphen, fix a little grammar;  
Gently handle every word; never use a hammer!

Keep the meaning; change the phrase; add parentheses.  
Alter things behind the scenes where nobody sees.  
Editors are quiet folks – detecting subtle errors.  
Typos that escape to press are our hidden terrors!

Now, I thought I'd share with you a few less well-known facts,  
Some things we editors may tend to hide behind our backs.  
Editors need editors – much more than you'd suppose,  
Folks to help us catch mistakes in poetry or prose.

I tend to think and write and type the things I have to say,  
Leaving punctuation out – it just gets in the way.  
My poetry lands on the page and struggles to its feet,  
With commas thrown in randomly before it is complete.

That phrase just doesn't sound quite right. I'll have to pick another.  
I wonder how this word is spelled. (I think I'll ask my mother!)  
Semicolon? Period? I wonder which is best.  
I have to read, reread and think before I let it rest.

Now comes the nitty-gritty part; it's nasty kind of fun.  
I have to make up several "proofs" before my work is done.  
Poetry all printed out gets crumpled into waste,  
Victim of errors that I missed because of sloppy haste.

My writings are like kids in coats; there's always something more  
That needs to be fixed up before I send them out the door.  
I hate to let mistakes leak out for fear that I'll discredit  
The other, stricter, side of me – the part that likes to edit.