

# Dear Carrot

Dear Carrot, please tell me if you have a soul.  
Should I feel guilt when you're diced in a bowl?

Do you feel good when you reach for the light?  
Do you feel bad when small bugs start to bite?  
Do you mind other plants if they don't sit too close?  
When thirsty and tired, do you get morose?

Your roots must feel joy when they're snug in the dirt  
and taste all the minerals like I taste dessert.  
On a moist April day with a sun in the sky,  
do you feel so at peace that you don't fear to die?

Will St. Peter welcome you at Heaven's gate?  
Will there be a line where you might have to wait?  
Are most carrots good? I've seen some go bad.  
With sub-standard care, can a carrot go mad?

Wolves will eat rabbits, and rabbits eat you.  
and I'll eat you both if you're cooked in a stew.  
Yet sometimes I ponder. I look in my bowl,  
dear Carrot, I wonder if you have a soul.

## Paul Manchester

Paul Manchester is an illustrator and poet who has been peddling rhyming verse for some time now. The challenge of finding the right word that fits the rhyme scheme is part of the fun of poetry to his mind. Paul has performed his humorous verse wherever he can get folks to sit still and listen. He mostly makes his bread and butter in the world of animation as a background artist. His musical play IN THE TOYBOX has been produced twice, in addition to performances over the years of short one acts and musical bits. His book PURSUITS OF WHIMSEY (available at [wilwhimsey.com](http://wilwhimsey.com)) is a playful romp that masquerades as a children's book. You really need this book for your library. Really. There is a gap on your shelf just screaming for it. When it comes to rhyming verse he suggests to choose the unexpected word last in a couplet; do your best to keep correct sentence structure intact, and memorize your poetry. In the memorization process, the awkward bits jump out. And of course... have fun.

