

*The Russet Apple*  
*by Betty Willis*

“Something is pushing out,” the apple is saying  
“Let me out so I, too, can see the world as you do  
One eye protrudes with a vengeance  
Where oh where my second eye.  
Here comes lips with a softness I feel with a sigh  
I will not be a beautiful fruit with a smooth shiny suit  
My personality is in my taste  
As you ingest the sweetness with content on your face  
Love me or leave me but I’ll stay.”  
“Ummmm, I love you Russet dear  
For ever a love to your ancestors  
Gulp, swallow--bye, bye russet dear.”