

WES MAGEE

## THE WOLF CHILD

Father told me it is a girl  
yet 'Feral' has been poker-worked  
into the wood above her cage  
and that's not a girl's name, I know.

Was she *really* found in a wolf's den?

I must have been here for an hour  
and seen nothing but her scratched back  
as she squats in that far corner.  
How hard and small the shaved head seems.

Is it true her eyes glow in the dark?

Soon mother will come to fetch me.  
India is terribly hot  
and I'm thirsty as the devil.  
Even her water bowl is fouled.

Why doesn't she howl as they report?

The stink reminds me of the byre  
back on Uncle's farm in Devon.  
Her spine looks like the Pennine Chain  
in my Geography book. Ho Hum.

When *is* she going to eat that raw meat?

Romulus and Remus sounded  
exciting but this is plain dull.  
They say she bites, but I refuse  
to believe she runs on all fours.

What *can* be delaying my mother?