**Little Abigail and the Beautiful Pony**

There was a girl named Abigail

Who was taking a drive

Through the country

With her parents

When she spied a beautiful sad-eyed

Grey and white pony.

And next to it was a sign

That said,

FOR SALE—CHEAP

“Oh,” said Abigail,

“May I have that pony?

May I please?”

And her parents said,

“No you may not.”

And Abigail said,

“But I MUST have that pony.”

And her parents said,

“Well, you can’t have that pony,

But you can have a nice butter pecan

Ice cream cone when we get home.”

And Abigail said,

“I don’t want a butter pecan

Ice cream cone,

I WANT THAT PONY.”

And her parents said,

“Be quiet and stop nagging—

You’re *not* going to get that pony.”

And Abigail began to cry and said,

“If I don’t get that pony, I’ll die.”

And her parents said, “You won’t die.

No child has ever died yet from not getting a pony.”

And Abigail felt so bad

That when they got home she went to bed,

And she couldn’t eat,

And she couldn’t sleep,

And her heart was broken,

And she DID die—

All because of a pony

That her parents wouldn’t buy.

(This is a good story

To read to your folks

When they won’t buy

You something you want.)

 from *A Light in the Attic* by Shel Silverstein

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**JOURNAL:** What do you think of this poem? Do you think it is funny? If you were a parent, would you want your second grader reading it? Would you be okay with your seventh grader reading it?