

Hero Dad

He's never scaled the foothills
of the Himalayas or climbed Mount Everest.

Never parachuted from a plane
or circumnavigated the planet.

Never swam the breadth of any river
or explored the North Pole.

But to his daughter
rapping him up from his deep dreaming
to rid her bedroom ceiling
of that spider creeping by in furtive spurts
sending jiggles down her nerves –

He is a hero all right – a sleepy-eyed knight
mounting that high horse of a stool
a paper napkin his only armour –
See how he catches the eight-legger
and sets it free to weave a safer harbour.

Grace Nichols

