

INHERITANCE

Have you inherited anything?

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BEQUEST

Today I had a big surprise
Uncle left me eight glass eyes.
He made me promise I would keep
all eight – now would you like a peep?
You would? All right, but do not feel
Them very hard for one is real.

Alistair Sampson, 1929-2006

Have you inherited anything unusual?

HEREDITY

I am the family face;
Flesh perishes, I live on,
Projecting trait and trace
Through time to times anon,
And leaping from place to place
Over oblivion.

Thomas Hardy, 1840-1928

Are you aware that you have inherited any physical features?

HAUNTING

The ancestors. The shadow people,
Who now and then lean softly from the dark
And stroke on chin the new generation.
Mothers fear them and their gifts.

U A Fanthorpe, 1929-2009

Are you aware that you have inherited any personality traits?