Archy, in the poem “lesson of the moth” by Don Marquis, can best be described as being simple. In other words, his life lacks complexity. Unlike the moth who is risky and often unpredictable, archy prefers a life of predictability, even though it may be boring at times. This can be seen in lines 46-48 when he states, “myself I would rather have half the happiness and twice the longevity.” He would rather experience less happiness but be with the people he loves twice as long. Furthermore, archy can’t fathom why moths would act so recklessly. He asks in line 5, “Why do you fellows pull this stunt” and in line 12 he asks, “Have you no sense?” Clearly, archy cannot understand why anyone would be so careless with their life. At the same time, however, he wishes “there was something [he] wanted as badly as [the moth] wanted to fry himself.” For this reason, archy’s life will consist of longevity, but he will lack true happiness and passion. He will never experience the true beauty or excitement of the moth.
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