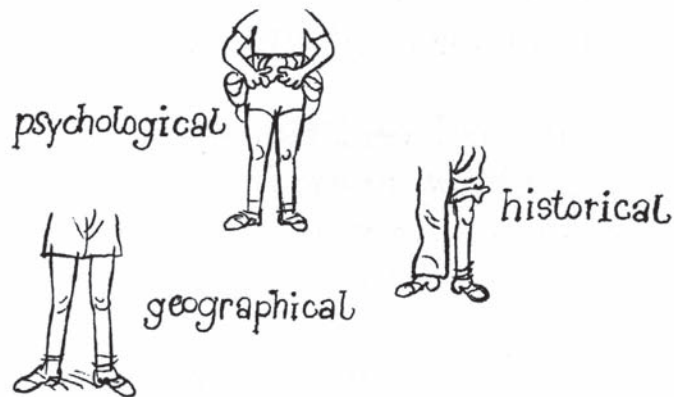


Extract 3



Scabs

The scab on Jean's knee
Is geographical.
Bexhill-on-Sea:
Tripped up on school trip.

The scab on Henry's knee
Is historical.
Oldest scab in Class Three:
Second year sack race.

The scab on Paul's knee
Is pugilistical.
Fighting Clive Key:
He got a cut lip.

The scab on Sally's knee
Is psychological.
Hurts if she does PE:
Painless at playtime.

The scab on Brian's knee
Is bibliographical.
Fooling around in library:
Banged into bookcase.

The scabs on the twins' knees
Are identical.
Likewise the remedies:
Hankies and spit.

The scab on Eric's knee
Is economical.
£2.50:
Second-hand skates.

The scab on Debby's knee
Is diabolical.
Nothing to see:
Hurts like the devil.

Allan Ahlberg