

# “Emmet Wore His Father’s Ring” by Brooks Lansana, Chicago

## Emmett wore his father’s ring

Louis bought a little ring. Little ring. Little ring.  
Louis bought a little ring while fighting in the war.

Louis wore it everywhere. Everywhere. Everywhere.  
Louis wore it everywhere. This ring shined so bright.

Louis died across the sea. Across the sea. Across the sea.  
Louis died across the sea. The ring came to his wife

Emmett was their only son. Their only son. Their only son.  
Emmett was their only son and Louis ring he wore.

In August he went down south. Went down south. Went down south  
In August Emmett went south with his father’s ring on.

In the store he bought some gum. Bought some gum. Bought some gum.  
In the store he bought some gum and whistled at Carolyn

Then he was snatched away at night. Away at night. Away at night.  
Then he was snatched away at night and taken on a ride.

His corpse was found in the river. In the river. In the river.  
His corpse was found in the river. The river washed the blood.

When Mamie saw her battered boy. Her shattered boy. Her lifeless boy.  
When Mamie saw her lifeless boy. Mamie began to wail.

The river didn’t take the ring. Take the ring. Take the ring  
The river didn’t take the ring, Only thing that she could hold!