

Hinton Sam

"Amphioxus"

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Amphioxus

by Sam Hinton

A fish-like thing appeared among the annelids one day.

It hadn't any parapods nor cetae to display.

It hadn't any lungs, nor jaws, nor ventral nervous cord,

But it had a lot of gill slits and it had a notochord.

Chorus:

It's a long way from Amphioxus. It's a long way to us.

It's a long way from Amphioxus to the meanest human
cuss.

Well, it's goodbye to fins and gill slits, and welcome,
lungs and hair!

It's a long, long way from Amphioxus, but we all came
from there.

He wasn't much to look at and he scarce knew how to
swim,

And Nereus was very sure he hadn't come from him.

The mollusks wouldn't own it and the arthropods got
sore,

So the poor thing had to burrow in the sand along the
shore.

(chorus)

He burrowed in the sand before a crab could nip his
tail,

And he said "Gill slits and miotomes are all to no avail.

I've grown a metapleural fold and sport an aural hood,

But all these fine new characters don't do me any good.

(chorus)

He sulked awhile down in the sand without a lot of pep,

Then he stiffened up his notochord and said, "I'll beat 'em yet!

Let 'em laugh and show their ignorance. I don't mind their jeers.

Just wait until they see me in hundred million years.

(chorus)

My notochord shall change into a chain of vertebrae

And as fins my metapleural folds shall agitate the sea.

My tiny ventral nervous cord will be a mighty brain

And the vertebrates shall dominate the animal domain.

(chorus

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