

American poet Raymond Carver battled for decades with alcoholism, depression and illness. In 'Soda Crackers', he writes directly to this unremarkable item of food, and thanks the crackers for being with him on a particularly difficult night of his life. He assures the crackers that his life has taken a joyously positive turn since that night.

This humorous poem encourages us all to reflect on the joyful moments in our lives, no matter how small or silly they may seem.

## Soda Crackers

You soda crackers! I remember  
when I arrived here in the rain,  
whipped out and alone.  
How we shared the aloneness  
and quiet of this house.  
And the doubt that held me  
from fingers to toes  
as I took you out  
of your cellophane wrapping  
and ate you, meditatively,  
at the kitchen table  
that first night with cheese,  
and mushroom soup. Now,  
a month later to the day,  
an important part of us  
is still here. I'm fine.  
And you—I'm proud of you, too.  
You're even getting remarked  
on in print! Every soda cracker  
should be so lucky.  
We've done all right for  
ourselves. Listen to me.  
I never thought  
I could go on like this  
about soda crackers.  
But I tell you  
the clear sunshiny  
days are here, at last.

Raymond Carver