

Poems for Pettengill
Re-Order Form (Work Order #3) as "Heal Haiti" project

Your name (first and last): Comity, so called, "on behalf of ye rest" (Committee of Correspondence in this instance: The Dears, Ken and Dominique of Newburyport) - joined by Ann Naimie in the related submission of the favorite poem project which follows, submitted April 10, 2010 (attached)

Address (street, city, state, zip): information provided when submitting print copy

Your email in case we have any questions (optional): comity@comity.org

Recipient name (optional): ~~Applicants and successful candidate for Superintendent-elect Dr. Marc Kerble as well as city officials, school committee members and the community at large~~

Select poem type: [NOTE: optional/elective; ultimate choice left to poet(s)/scribe(s)]

Free verse: A poem lacking any specific pattern or form – \$ 5.00

Haiku: A Japanese form of three lines of five, seven, and five syllables – 3 /\$ 5.00

Tanka: A Japanese form of five lines in which all but the first and third lines which consist of five syllables, consist of seven syllables – 2 /\$ 5.00

Rap: U know what it be – \$ 5.00

Ovillejo: A Spanish ten line poem with a AABCCDDC rhyme scheme – \$ 5.00

Sestina: A poem of six stanzas of six lines and one stanza of three lines, typically without rhyme; end words of each line are reused in each stanza – \$ 5.00

Villanelle: A nineteen line poem made up of five triplets and a quatrain, using the same two rhymes throughout the entire form – \$ 5.00

Flash fiction: A short story of about one page – \$ 5.00

Shakespearean sonnet: A fourteen line poem of three quatrains, followed by a couplet, with an ABAB CDCD EFEF GG rhyme scheme – \$ 5.00

Petrarchan sonnet: A fourteen line poem made up of an octave and a sestet with an ABBAABBA CDECDE rhyme scheme – \$ 5.00

Theme:

Romance Sympathy Missing you Makeup
 Anniversary Congratulations Friendship Holiday: _____
 Birthday Get well Breakup Other:

Tone: Serious Humorous

Three words you would like included in your poem: (NOTE: optional/elective)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

(NOTE: key words/phrases underlined for Whitman's essay on page 2)

Additional requests or background information:

Free verse to expound upon Walt Whitman's essay often referred to as "Absolute Balance." An essay of "The Apex of Education" (for lifelong learners). For more information, see page 2 of this work order (#3) as well as footnote 3 of the original message to Mrs. Szabo sent 12/18/09. Attachments included, along with this content, is also found online at the "Poetry in Motion" webpage at www.comity.org/PoetryInMotion.htm (linked from www.Comity.org).

* Please include payment with order form. Cash or checks payable to NHS Record Magazine should be mailed to Mrs. Szabo at Newburyport High School, 241 High St., Newburyport, MA. All orders must be placed by December 16. Poems will be mailed by December 21. (NOTE: New deadline for placing orders now January 10.) Email any questions to dszabo@newburyport.k12.ma.us

Additional background information (see reordered information on page 3):

Included in the Comity.org webpage "Poetry in Motion" at the hyperlink
<http://www.comity.org/PoetryInMotion.htm#absolute>

From *Leaves of Grass* (*) ... *The Essay, Absolute Balance*
by Walt Whitman (1819- 1892)

There is, apart from mere intellect, in the makeup of every superior human identity, (in its moral completeness, considered as ensemble, not for the moral alone, but for the whole being, including physique,) a wondrous something that realizes without argument, frequently without what is called education, (though I think it the goal and apex of all education deserving the name) --- an intuition of the absolute balance, in time and space, of the whole of this multifarious, mad chaos of fraud, frivolity, hoggishness --- this revel of fools, and incredible make-believe and general unsettledness, we call the world; a soul-sight of that divine clue and unseen thread which holds the whole congeries of things, all history and time, and all events, however trivial, however momentous, like a leashed dog in the hand of the hunter.

* (con)NOTATION: When self-published in 1855, the first edition of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* contained but 12 poems; when the last edition was completed, the tome included nearly 400 poems and prose. Preparing the final edition of *Leaves of Grass* as a culmination of his life work ~ Whitman penned to a friend: "L. of G. *at last complete* — after 33 y'rs of hackling at it, all times & moods of my life, fair weather & foul, all parts of the land, and peace & war, young & old."

That last version of *Leaves of Grass* ~ often referred to as the "deathbed edition" ~ was formally released in January 1892, two months before Whitman's death ~ with an announcement was published in the *New York Herald* citing:

*Walt Whitman wishes respectfully to notify the public that the book *Leaves of Grass*, which he has been working on at great intervals and partially issued for the past thirty-five or forty years, is now completed, so to call it, and he would like this new 1892 edition to absolutely supersede all previous ones. Faulty as it is, he decides it as by far his special and entire self-chosen poetic utterance.*

** (Re)view the full collection of Whitman's works, published in its final form by David McKay in 1900, and subsequently published online at Bartley.com to mark its centennial anniversary: the complete final edition of *Leaves of Grass* ~ linked from McKay's preface ~ can found at this weblink <http://www.bartleby.com/142/> ~ which in turn links to the companion collection of Whitman's prose at this <http://www.bartleby.com/229/>. Some publications merged a selection of poetry, free verse and prose. **The above essay, *Absolute Balance*, is an excerpt from Whitman's pointed observations about Thomas Carlyle entitled "Carlyle from American Points of View" ~ which can be reviewed in its entirety at the hyperlink <http://www.bartleby.com/229/1223.html/>**

*** **Caveat to Whitman's modifier "superior": Ralph Waldo Emerson is quoted to have said, "Every man is (in some way) my superior, in that I may learn from him."** NOTE: Asking the kind reader to construe this includes both genders of humankind, for Emerson was to a large degree a feminist. FURTHER NOTE: On rare occasion, a variation of this quote is attributed to Thomas Carlyle --- given the quote was found repeated in various iterations in correspondence between the two. However, purportedly, Emerson is the source of these sentiments.

As originally cited in footnote 3 of the original message to Mrs. Szabo dated December 18, 2009, the essay is referenced at the www.LordTimothyDexter.com at this hyperlink: http://www.lordtimothydexter.com/Maxims_Minutiae_Miscellany.htm#similesouls ---

With plans to submit this essay as a "favorite poem," that submission dated April 10, 2010 is archived at Comity.org, linked from Correspondence webpage, direct hyperlink [http://www.comity.org/Correspondence_\(Sub\)mission_NHS_Annual_Favorite_Poem_Project_041010.pdf](http://www.comity.org/Correspondence_(Sub)mission_NHS_Annual_Favorite_Poem_Project_041010.pdf) ---

While as anticipated, Comity's favorite poem was not selected for reading this year --- (having recited Whitman's "One thought ever at the fore" last year). **However, as mentioned in the letter to the editor published in the Newburyport Daily News on April 29** (see <http://www.newburyportnews.com/opinion/x1164467718/Experience-was-transformative>) --- **the experience was (as ever) "transformative."**

With the "ply" between the two projects ("poems for hire" and "favorite poem") being most helpful to project a "coda" (addendum and "afterthought") to promote and conduct "forward thinking" ---

Particularly when engaging incoming Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble (who officially takes the helm on July 1) in "goodly conversation" with the Waterside community well in advance of that timeframe ---

Therefore, it would be timely if this reordered work order could be commenced and/or completed by the next School Committee meeting held Monday, May 17 (which the Superintendent-elect will attend) --- or by June 12, which is the projected date for a "summit" (of sorts) between the School Committee and the City Council (organized by the Joint Ed committee).

[NOTE: If the full (free) verse this is impossible, a sampling of concise "plausible clauses" from multiple contributors may well suffice --- which then could be woven into the broader "looming wisdom" as the creative writing students' "soul-sight of that divine clue and unseen thread."

FURTHER NOTE: With the students offering their respective and collective "presence of mind" at these "opportunities to come to a meeting of the minds."

➔ **FURTHER STILL:** Which begs the question: Is there is any interest on the part of the originators of the "poets form hire" project --- Rob Staples and the students completing work order form # 2 (http://www.comity.org/Poems_for_Pettengill_Work_Order2.pdf) --- to bring their creativity from "page" to "stage" --- thus taking their original concept when brainstorming session "literally" as well as "figuratively"? (See the "semblance" of the "Newburyport Daily News" account of an event ["reportedly" held June 11 in Newburyport] widely renowned as the annual "Doughnut Contest" at the hyperlink http://www.comity.org/Poems_for_Pettengill_completed_work_order2.pdf.)