

PATHOS · HUMOR · HISTORY · CREATIVE NON-FICTION

# CALLAHAN COUNTY STAR SPOTLIGHT WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

## American Life In Poetry

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Poetry has often served to remind us to look more closely, to see what may have been at first overlooked. Today's poem is by Kaelum Poulson of Washington state. A middle school student and already accomplished maker of poems, he writes of the thankless toils of an unlikely but entirely necessary member of our community--the crow!

### The Crow

So beautiful  
but often unseen  
a maid of nature  
the street cleaner that's  
everywhere  
never thanked  
never liked  
always ignored  
so elegant in a way no  
one sees  
but without it we would  
be in trash up to our  
knees  
with the heart of a lion  
the mind of a fox  
the color of the night sky

a crow  
the unpaid workman  
that helps in every way  
each and every day

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright (c) by Seattle Arts & Lectures. Reprinted from "The Universal Controversial Hive: poems, stories, & memoirs by students," Writers in the Schools, 2006, by permission of the publisher. Introduction copyright (c) 2008 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

## Literary Calendar

September 28, 1891: Herman Melville dies with small obituary notices in New York City at age 72, a relative unknown.

September 29, 1902: A blocked chimney smoked a room where Emile Zola was sleeping, causing his death.

October 2, 1836: On the H. M. S. Beagle, Charles Darwin returns from a four and a half year voyage.

October 2, 1937: Writer and critic David W. McCullough, who wrote "Brooklyn and How It Got That Way" was born in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania

## On Working A Story

You want to consider here to look at plotting. With every story you can choose the characters and their motivations and you can choose settings you want to present. You already have your theme perhaps. There are many ways to plan a story. You want to get to the resolution of the mystery at the end, in most cases.

There is the problem then of just how to get there. Some writers say they can't use an outline. Some always do. Some start with one, then find that the story moves away from the outline into a better expression. All of those can work. But you should consider starting with the outline, to get going. This way you will have your goal in place. Outlines can take many forms, but one you might consider is a "double outline" or some hybrid of it. Here you take your characters and plot them in the normal way. Look at doing it in a flow chart format. Then take other of the meta-elements of what constitutes a story, the settings, the action, the dialogue, and create a flow chart for many of these elements to stand beside the regular plot. Everything can change in the course of a story, and you might find that this process helps you succeed. - Patrick Ready



Timothy Palmer reads one of his poems at the Poetry Fest during the West Texas Book and Music Festival on Monday.

Photo by Patrick Ready

E-mail address:  
[thebairdspotlight@att.net](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)

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## Words To Use

**Mattoid:** Here is a noun for a person who is partly insane.

**Nuchal:** An adjective used to describe the nape of the neck. It has not been found to be used in common western novels.

**Ooidal:** A word used to describe something having to do with eggs. Most of the time it is probably used before they are scrambled.

**Parlambling:** Use this word to describe rambling or lackadaisial speaking, like when you are talking while walking in the mall.



The pen is mightier than the sword.

Submissions sought  
to:  
**Star**  
P.O. Box 29  
Eastland, TX 76448  
email: [thebairdspotlight@att.net](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)  
S.A.S.E, for returns

--WANTED--  
20 lines,  
double spaced or less  
Poetry  
Fiction or Non  
Each entry with  
brief biography  
notes. All must be  
family oriented; no  
smut, slander or  
liable material.

## Contacts of interest for writers:

NFSPS Poetry  
Contests for 2008  
Madelyn Eastlund  
310 South Adams Street  
Beverly Hills, Florida 34465

Poetry Society of Texas  
Membership Committee  
Lee Carroll  
3909 Gable Lane, #611  
Fort Worth, Texas 76155  
[leecarroll.fwps@gmail.com](mailto:leecarroll.fwps@gmail.com)

**WANTED: Poetry and/or short stories for this page each week.**

Mail to: Star P.O. Box 29 Eastland, TX 76448 or e-mail to [thebairdspotlight@att.net](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)

Rhymes To You:  
Nincompoop  
Soup  
Coop  
Dupe  
Whoop  
Daughter  
Slaughter  
Water

**Abilene Writers Guild News**  
Submissions for the 2008 contests will be accepted through October 1, 2008.  
For more information about the contests and membership:  
<http://abilenewritersguild.org/#notify>  
[AWG@abilenewritersguild.org](mailto:AWG@abilenewritersguild.org)

## Writers And Poets!

The Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers announce that the Baird Star will be publishing submitted poetry and short stories. We will also be publishing a literary journal in the near future.

1. We ask for first-time publishing rights. All other rights will remain with the author.
2. There will be no payment, but you will get your works before the general public. We will be sending sample copies to other organizations, the literary world and libraries for their archives and your notoriety.
3. Short stories should be brief. Poetry should be no longer than 24 lines.
4. Each submission should be typewritten, single spaced, with author's name and contact information in the top right hand corner. You must include a SASE for the return of the submission.
5. Please address all submissions to:

Literary Editor  
Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers  
P. O. Box 29  
Eastland, TX 76448  
email: [thebairdspotlight@att.net](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)  
Fax: 254-629-2092