

CALLAHAN COUNTY STAR SPOTLIGHT

WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

Poetry Foundation Launches Online Poetry Learning Lab

New educational, media-rich poetry experience for teachers and students

CHICAGO — The Poetry Foundation invites teachers and students to tap into its new online resource, the Poetry Learning Lab. Hosted on www.poetryfoundation.org, the Poetry Learning Lab is designed for anyone who wants to learn more about poetry.

A dynamic resource for teachers, students, and learners of every age, the Poetry Learning Lab has been developed by the Poetry Foundation in conjunction with a team of education experts—including writing and literature teachers, librarians, and poets—to provide an immersive educational experience with poetry. By allowing students to experiment with different ways of reading poems—as text, sound, and visual artifacts—the Learning Lab provides readers of all levels with the opportunity to practice close reading and listening skills and to think broadly and analytically about poetry and poetics.

An extension of the Poetry Foundation's comprehensive website, which includes an archive of more than 600 poets and 8,000 poems, the Poetry Learning Lab's multimedia educational resources include annotations, reading guides, audio and video recordings, discussion questions, writing ideas, teaching tips, and podcasts. The diverse learning approaches incorporated within the tools provide students and teachers with endless ways to approach poetry, and ensure that individual learning styles are met. These features are offered in connection with 10 selected poems:

- Louise Bogan's "A Tale"
- Robert Browning's "Fra Lippo Lippi"
- Lucille Clifton's "won't you celebrate with me"
- Emily Dickinson's "I started Early - Took my Dog"
- John Donne's "The Sun Rising"
- Gerard Manley Hopkins's "The Windhover"
- Yusef Komunyakaa's "Facing It"
- Sylvia Plath's "Fever 103"
- Walt Whitman's "A Passage to India"
- William Carlos Williams's "To a Poor Old Woman"

Also serving as a one-stop portal for reference materials, the Poetry Learning Lab is replete with engaging articles about poets and poetry, bibliographies, a thorough glossary of literary terms, and a large selection of poetics essays and manifestos ranging from Plato to today.

Catherine Halley, editor of www.poetryfoundation.org, says, "The Poetry Learning Lab takes something Robert Frost once said as a point of departure: 'Poetry begins in delight and ends in wisdom.' The Lab encourages students to attend to individual poems with a focus that's rare on the Internet—and at the same time provides teachers and instructors with a unique range of supplementary material useful in teaching poetry, from a glossary of poetic terms, to a series of historic poetics manifestos, to a variety of pedagogical essays."

The positive response from students across the country to Poetry Out Loud, a facilitating an interactive learning process that allows readers to discover for themselves the pleasures of engaging with difficult and precise language.

Teachers, students, and all users can also discover Harriet, the Poetry Foundation's blog, where poetry teacher John S. O'Connor guest-blogs about the joys of teaching and studying poetry.

The Poetry Foundation will host a booth in the Exhibit Hall at the annual National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) convention in Philadelphia, November 19 to 22, 2009. Staff will be available to answer questions and provide more information. For more information on the conference, visit www.ncte.org/annual.

For more information on the Poetry Foundation's Poetry Learning Lab, please visit www.poetryfoundation.org/learninglab.

Submissions sought to:
Star
P.O. Box 29
Eastland, TX 76448
email: 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.

Tardy Mockingbird

He leaps so high and down he floats
This tardy mockingbird cries
With songs enough to burst his throat
Seeking his belated prize.

In the afternoon and before
He's atop that ole tree there
He dips he dives and then he soars
But really shouldn't be there.

October's not the time to strut
Halloween's on the morrow
Already you've outstretched your luck
With no more time to borrow.

Most other birds have headed South
To bask in a warmer clime
But here you are with open mouth
Pretending that all is fine.

So who are you Whipper Snapper
I think you are very brash
Does your lady think you're dapper
Even though I think you're rash.

All your chirping, all your jiving
Made you forget Winter's chill
But I guess you think high diving
Will promote a Winter's thrill.

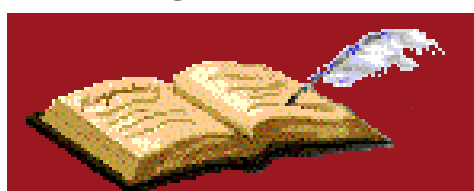
-Weldon L. Smith
Eastland, Texas

Wanted: Writers & Poets



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

The pen is mightier than the sword



American Life in Poetry Column 239

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

It's likely that if you found the original handwritten manuscript of T. S. Eliot's groundbreaking poem, "The Waste Land," you wouldn't be able to trade it for a candy bar at the Quick Shop on your corner. Here's a poem by David Lee Garrison of Ohio about how unsuccessfully classical music fits into a subway.

Bach in the DC Subway

As an experiment,
The Washington Post
asked a concert violinist—
wearing jeans, tennis shoes,
and a baseball cap—
to stand near a trash can
at rush hour in the subway
and play Bach
on a Stradivarius.
Partita No. 2 in D Minor
called out to commuters
like an ocean to waves,
sang to the station
about why we should bother
to live.

A thousand people
streamed by. Seven of them
paused for a minute or so
and thirty-two dollars floated
into the open violin case.
A café hostess who drifted
over to the open door
each time she was free
said later that Bach
gave her peace,
and all the children,
all of them,
waded into the music
as if it were water,
listening until they had to be
rescued by parents
who had somewhere else to go.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2008 by David Lee Garrison, whose most recent book of poems is *Sweeping the Cemetery: New and Selected Poems*, Brower Books Publishing, 2007. Poem reprinted from *Rattle*, Vol. 14, No. 2, Winter 2008, by permission of David Lee Garrison and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2009 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.

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
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*Any and all ages
welcome to write*