

# **An Anthology of Students' Poems**

## **ELIT 227 Poetry & Poetics**

**Autumn 2019**

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### **Part One**

#### **FOUND POEMS**

**(section 1)**

##### **The Assignment :**

*Find a short piece of prose in English.* This can be almost anything: a news story, an advertisement for face cream, an online review of a new car - whatever takes your fancy. If you're stuck for ideas, I suggest looking at the BBC News website (This task works best if you choose a piece on a topic about which you have strong, ideally ambivalent feelings!)

Now *transform this piece of prose into verse.* You will do this by *playing with the mise-en-page*, introducing *line-endings*, using italics and bold and changing the *typography*, or playing with the *punctuation*. (Look at Forrest-Thomson for examples of how you can do this.) However, *you must NOT change the word order*, or leave out words. Try to create something you find interesting, suggestive and meaningful - not just a mess.

ENGLAND!

*England,*

manager Gareth Southgate says he knows.

*"pretty much everything"* about his.

players after James Maddison was pictured-

in a casino despite pulling out of the squad with;

*illness.*

## All for the British

*Lingerie, handcuffs, synthetic body parts* and a £1,500 sex doll...  
They *are all available to buy* next to a Shell garage  
on the northbound carriageway between Doncaster and Pontefract.

There are seven Pulse & Cocktails adult superstores in total,  
which occupy former roadside restaurants.  
- mostly Little Chefs.

On the A1,  
a major trunk road connecting London and Edinburgh, there are three stores.  
This caused comedian Alan Carr to pose the question on Twitter.

"How horny are the drivers on the A1?"

Quite  
as it turns out.

But why is Britain's longest road such a handy location *for* selling sex paraphernalia?  
We can never get away from *the* fact that  
we are *British*

and everyone is frightened to death of being seen going into a local adult store,  
but if they are 100 miles from home they have the confidence to go in.

## Counter Revolution

Iranian women have attended;

A *world* Cup qualifier in Tehran for

A men's match,

for the first time

in decades.

women have effectively **been**:

banned from stadiums when men **are** playing,

since just after

The 1979 Islamic *Revolution*.

The change followed the death

of a fan who had set

herself alight

-after being arrested for trying to attend a match-

# A HeAvy BuRden

The Queenn was clad inn full ceremonnial robes as she delivered her speech at Parliament's State Openning.

But onne thinng was missinng from her elaborate outfit: the jewel-encrusted Imperial State Crownn.

Innstead- she wore the diamonnd diadem recognnisable from her profile on British stamps and coinns- while the crownn rested on a table beside her.

The decisionn didn't go unnnnoticed on social media.

The choice was a matter of personnal preferennc for the *93-year-old monarch.*

The diadem is much lighter thann the crownn.

The tiara is traditionnally wornn for the journey to and from Parliament.

The crownn- which was commissionned for the Queen's father- George VI's- coronnationn inn 1937- boasts nearly *3,000 diamonnds- 17 sapphires- 11 emeralds and arounnd 270 pearls* - in addition to the large diamond- ruby and sapphire that adornn the back and front.

“It weighs about *a kilo.*”

The rim of the George IV State Diadem- however- is about a quarter of the width and set with arounnd 1,300 diamonnds annd 170 pearls.

The Queen commented on the weight of the **CROWN**- which she wore at the end of her coronation and for most **State Openings of Parliament** since- in a **BBC** documentary last year.

She described it as "unwieldy".

"You can't look down to read the speech- you have to take the speech up- because if you did your neck would break - it would fall off-" she said- smiling.

"So there are some disadvantages to **CROWNS**- but otherwise they're quite important things."

After all those years  
The only option was Netflix  
I've fallen from grace  
Of Hollywood's Mean Streets

There are stars from Italy  
And became good fellers with them  
All those scenarios set in Sicily  
Some said marvelous effects are the cinema, since when?

## Depicted in Art

Lean in a little

And one quickly begins to detect,

Subtle

tensions

Unsettling the surfaces of these masterpieces.

Such details, often overlooked,

Have the

power

To transform these deceptively simple depictions

*Into something more*

Mysterious, complex, emotionally conflicted.

## Strive for the Everlasting Victory

There were times  
when  
our country was in a still more difficult position.  
Remember  
the year 1918,  
when  
we celebrated the first anniversary  
of the October Revolution.  
Three-quarters of our country was  
at that time  
in the hand of foreign interventionists.

The Ukraine,  
the Caucasus,  
Central Asia,  
the Urals,  
Siberia  
and the Far East  
were temporarily lost to us.  
We had no allies,  
we had no Red Army  
we had  
only just begun to create it.  
there was a shortage  
of food,  
of armaments,  
of clothing  
for the Army.

Fourteen states  
were pressing against our country. But  
**we did not**  
become despondent  
**we did not**  
lose heart.  
In the fire of war,

we forged the Red Army  
and converted our country  
into a military camp.

The spirit of the great Lenin  
animated us  
at that time for the war  
against the interventionists. And what happened?  
we routed the interventionists,  
recovered all our lost territory,  
and achieved  
***VICTORY!!!***

## The Man Was a Samurai

Almost 500 years ago

A tall African man

Arrived in *Japan*-

He would go

On to become the first

*Foreign*-born man-

To achieve the status

Of a *Samurai* warrior

And is the Subject of

Two films being *produced*-

**BY *HOLLYWOOD*.**

Known *as* Yasuke-  
Who reached the rank  
Of Oda Nobunaga-  
Japanese feudal lord

The man was *a Warrior*  
Of samurai under the rule-  
A powerful 16th Century  
Who was the first of the-

Three unifiers of

**JAPAN.**

## Of Elton

He was the first  
Musician to enter the US album charts at *number one*.

He has won a Brit award for outstanding achievement three times.  
And he owns six gold, 38 platinum and one diamond albums. None—  
Of this, however, impressed his father.

Stanley Dwight, a flight lieutenant in the Royal Air Force,  
Never attended one of Elton's shows,  
And never expressed pride in his son's success.  
Their relationship was strained until his death—  
From heart disease in 1991.

Writing in his new autobiography, *Me*,  
Elton admits he spent his whole career—  
"trying to show my father what I'm made of".  
"It's crazy, but I just wanted his approval,"  
The star tells the *BBC*.

In the only print interview about his book.  
"I'm still trying to prove to him that what I do is fine  
- and he's been dead for almost 30 years."  
Strikingly, however, the star harbours no resentment,  
Describing his father as a "product of his time"

- uptight, emotionally stunted and trapped in an unhappy marriage.

"Although he didn't really come

To the shows or write me a letter to say, 'well done',

I don't think he knew how to," he explains.

Born Reginald Dwight and raised in *Pinner*, near *Wembley* in north-west London,

Elton was frequently on the receiving end of his parents' frustration.

He spent his formative years in "a state of high alert"

Amid arguments and "clobberings" from his mum.

"My parents were oil and water.

They should never have gotten married,

" he says. "

As you get older,

You can see much clearer what they went through,

What they tried to do for me;

At the —

Expense of their happiness."

Just Before 10 p.m. Monday

Philadelphia police say a woman  
Shot and killed  
Her two girls and their father  
Before turning the gun on herself.  
Police found the man

**Dead**

With a gunshot wound  
To the head.  
In a rowhome,

    In the city's Tacony section,  
        Just before 10 p.m. Monday.

The girls were rushed to a hospital  
Where they died.

The woman,  
Who was found outside the home  
Lying on top of a gun  
Is in critical condition.

Acting Police Commissioner Christine Coulter says:  
The woman and man  
Are believed to be  
The parents of the children.  
Coulter says

    The woman  
        Apparently  
            Shot

        The others

Before shooting herself.  
No names have been released,  
And there were conflicting accounts of family members' ages.

The blocking of Winnie the Pooh

might seem like a bizarre

move by the Chinese authorities

but it is part of a struggle

to restrict clever bloggers from getting around their country's censorship.

When is a set of wrist watches

not just a set of wrist watches?

When is a river crab

not just a river crab?

Inside the Great Firewall of China

of course.

## Cut the harvard

The  
elite-college experience is (plainly)  
There are studies on this.

Not worth the immense cost

In most cases;  
if you are bright enough to  
but don't actually  
your post-college income will (closely)

Get into harvard,  
Go to harvard;  
Resemble that of a harvard graduate.

As  
george mason university economist Bryan Caplan (cleverly)  
if the point of going to college is to  
rather than to  
- that is in essence no different from the one the Scarecrow

Puts it,  
Learn things,  
Obtain a certificate of smartness  
Gets at the end of *The Wizard of Oz*-

Why do students invariably celebrate when they get to class  
and find a notice that it has been cancelled?

## The Moment I live in

Jessica Kellgren-Fozard gets a real kick out of life's *small pleasures*;

a beautiful dress, a warm bath, or a good night's sleep-  
*on a good day, all three.*

The YouTuber,

who has more than half a million subscribers to her channel,  
is deaf, partially visually impaired and has a rare autoimmune disorder, MCTD,  
as well as a nerve disorder, HNPP.

Such chronic disabilities may make her life tough at times,

but she's determined not to let them define it.

"Because the medical condition that I live with is very *unpredictable*,

I can wake up one morning and not have the use of my legs,"

she tells the BBC.

"Or I wake up in the morning - when I was fine the day before -

and now all I can do is vomit

and I can't lift my head and it's like, '*oh, right!*' -

Because of that I never know what tomorrow is going to be,

so I've kind of I've got to just enjoy now,

otherwise, who knows?"

She adds: "*I have to do the fun things now, I can't just be waiting.*"

## **Part Two**

### **METAPHOR POEMS (section 2)**

**The Assignment:**

Using Sylvia Plath's poem 'Metaphors' as a model, write a riddle poem made of metaphors, on a subject of your choice. Unlike Plath, give the answer to your 'riddle' as your title (this should be no more than three words long - avoid overly complex subjects). Your poem should be at least four lines long, and include at least four different metaphors.

## The Sun

The breaker of all silences  
The dread of all idle youth  
For he brings upon our dormant dances  
A measure of truth

For sombre is his first tune  
And weary his empty gaze  
Those who match it he would soon  
See set ablaze

Down comes the burning eye  
And down his crimson host  
With an enchanting lullaby  
Rising from the soundless coast

The start of all earthly things  
Would also be their end  
The centre of all minglings  
Where all visions attend

I envision in his wake  
Which is the hour of metaphore  
The dormant seas softly break  
And dance upon the mingled shore

This isle of gold upon the sea  
Breaks the binding flood  
Which in turn the duality  
Of harvest and blood

Darkness unveils his sister pale  
As the western fire dies  
In turn her songs and whispers unveil  
Wisdom into lies

O the all-wandering eye  
The ancient god of blight  
In your wisdom would you try  
To grace me a little more night?

## **Ankara**

Welcome to the jungle  
A concrete exhibition  
Filled with proud residents  
Raised by harsh winter winds

## Pursuit of Acceptance

One morning I am sleeping in an elevator

Then I feel a filthy iron smell smashing towards my face

Someone inside me enjoys the filthy smell, oddly

It is the elevated me

I freshly embrace

Founding myself deep in the ocean, the following day

My body is a fish flying in the depth

Made me a big fish in the ocean, an accomplishment

Yet did not let me see the surface

Like it is covered with full of disenchantment

In the darkest and cruellest night  
I saw the loveliest in my sight  
The affection I saw in his eyes  
Made me Juliet in chapel's halls

## Poem

I can take many forms,  
But me you cannot define.  
My harmony a lady charms,  
But my chaos is not a crime.

My big bang is at the end  
of a bottle and a breakdown.  
In me space and time can bend  
into a sea where lost souls drown.

I reflect what you want to see,  
be it freedom, rebellion, or confusion.  
Let me be, let me be, let me be,  
my meaning is only your illusion.

I am both: the question, and the answer.  
To be me, language itself becomes a dancer.

*Hadi*

## Heart

I am your eyes that you want to make blind.

A viper starting to strangle your throat invariably you think he's changed.

I am the knife that stabs you every time you see him.

Sometimes I am the lightning you never know when it is going to strike.

The one you willingly punish with that smoke of deadly cigar

As you again fooled by his deceitful smile.

I'm a five syllables word, a rose waiting to be picked.

## **Photograph**

I used to be dark and gloomy  
But now the rainbow grows in me  
As soon as you snap your fingers  
I will lock my prisoners with me  
Now that I have them locked  
you can collect the memories in me

## **Abandonment**

Love was like a huge tree, and suddenly,  
Leaves started to fall from my branches.

Darkness is now all I see,  
A baby started to cry now.

## **Asleep**

Try to guess what I am doing

I am not dead but not living either

**Sometimes I see rainbows, flowers and birds**

Sometimes I see murderers, blood and guns

My heart beats slower

My body is colder

**I am a hammer in the sea**

I am as free as a bird

I have to leave this place

Before I am late

## **TIME**

The flying arrow is already off the bow  
Topples down all the charms get in its way  
Scattering all the feathers of the dove  
Her snowy feathers meet water's surface  
The flying arrow reaches to its target

## **A life ends**

A caterpillar with curlings  
An apple on a tree  
One life time below the leaves,  
All breaths spent to reach

Call of a widow's love  
Lies of haven  
The wind was for beauty  
Beauty won't be saving me

## Faith in God

Although it might be all just smoke and mirrors,  
Since forever,  
How strongly you believe,  
That you're meant to be with someone.  
You, standing there, holding on to that.  
Perhaps you are not, though  
Perhaps, you are doomed to be this warm body,  
Laying on those cold, white sheets you've been using,  
For years now.  
Still, it's okay. It should be.  
You have this warmth in your heart,  
That means so much more than all these perhapses around.  
You, standing there, holding on to that  
Somehow.

## **long-distance**

attending a concert  
in the backmost row  
window-shopping as a kid  
when you really want a toy  
running out of painkillers  
on a sunday while suffering from a throe  
living the season finale  
every time we say, darling, cheerio

## **BETRAYAL** (of a beloved one)

Nobody but I saw you at that night.  
Playing with the doll you owned secretly and all of a sudden,  
I smelled the rotten love in the air.

She had those-  
Wavy snakes dyed red on her head,  
And was covered with a plastic light pink seems as dead,  
She seems as a swan whose neck was broken  
Never so confident and never so beaten.  
Had many aching purpleness she got that you gifted her  
In forbidden moments of your shared sin.

Alas ! I almost forgot-  
As she was laughing insane to your face with the courage given by  
The colorful poison that stands in front of her,  
I heard the words that destroy my world;  
“My VALENTINE, let me be the only woman of your world !”

But what I could not forgot is the look of her rolling guns.  
Painted with deep blue  
As the darkest surface of eternal oceans,  
She looked at you as if you were hidden behind the darkest curtains.  
The best partners of crime  
Were caught to the worst beloved one of all the times.  
You were a criminal  
Caught red-handed  
Wasting his love  
Which once was sacred.

*Pink*