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Virgilio graduated from Camden High School and attended the College of South Jersey. He graduated from Temple University in 1952. Virgilio spent several years as a professional radio announcer before his second career of poet and lecturer. The public is invited to hear the Camden poet. Admission free. The Walt Whitman International Poetry Center is located in Johnson Park at 2nd and Cooper Streets, Camden, New Jersey. For further information, write to Frederick Missimer, Coordinator, Camden Bicentennial Advisory Board, Bureau of Intergovernmental Relations, 22 Haddon Avenue, Camden, New Jersey 08103. Telephone 757-7345 Area Code 609.
a cicada sings, and a sick fly on the sill wrings its hands and dies.

again and again butting a wall of spring breeze with string in its beak

that spring sparrow's weak carrying string in its beak butting a wall of breeze

that spring sparrow's weak carrying string in its beak: butting a wall of wind.

that small sparrow's weak butting a wall of spring breeze carrying string in its beak.

that small sparrow's weak climbing a wall of spring breeze carrying vine in its beak.

that tiny sparrow climbing a wall of spring breeze carries vine in its beak.

the distant steamship, and here on the empty pier: black mantilla.

air raid siren fades in heat and haze: cicada.

under the under thunderheads, over the old cathedral: a cross of sunbeams.

that tiny sparrow climbing a wall of spring wind

that tiny sparrow climbings

that tiny sparrow climbing a wall of spring wind: small vine in its beak.

tiny sparrow climbing wall of spring wind small vine in beak.

in the chicken coop at midnight, a wounded weasel breaks the brooding silence.

spring sparrow clinging to ivy vine climbs wall of wind.

tiny paws holding empty acorn: gnawing cold.

scarecrow-saint wearing butterfly-halo prays in sun ray.
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the town atheist
shaking his fist at heaven
brings on the earthquake.

the town atheist
shaking his fist at heaven
brings down the earthquake.

the town atheist
shaking his fist at heaven
curses the earthquake.

the town atheist
shaking his fist at heaven
creates an earthquake.

Confederate graveyard:
a swarm of swirling leaves
storms the great stone wall.

town-hotel-at-midnight-
shades-up-down-lights-on-off-
neon-sign-pin-ball-moon.

city evanglist
shaking his fist at heaven
brings on the earthquake.

cicada sings,
and a horsefly on the sill
wrings its hands and dies.

the afterglow
is gilding the icy branches
of the willow.
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The Fourth of July:

beneath a street lamp
with a halo of wheeling moths
the town drunkard reels

the town drunkard reels
and a band of gypsy moths
wheels around the street light.

listening at twilight
in the midst of city hell
the quiet of the bell
down the dusty trail
from town dragging a bamboo pole
secret fishing hole.

down the dusty trail
from town dragging bamboo poles...
secret fishing-hole.

a cicada cries
and mosquito larvae rise
in the rain barrel
in the empty rain barrel
rocking in the cold wind
a cicada shell

scarecrow-saint
with butterfly-halo
bows in sunbeam.

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with a halo of wheeling moths
the town drunkard reels

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the autumn wind
is scrawling verses of blackbirds
on billowing clouas.

The temple bell tolls,
and the first water lily
unfolds on the pond.

Easter alone
in the crowded cathedral:
least hypocritical.

The temple bell tolls,
and the first yellow lily
unfolds on the old pond.

Easter alone
in the crowded cathedral:
crippled with doubt.

The Hollywood Bowl
and the sunrise beyond
a distant cock crows,
and flocks of starlings and sparrows
darken the frozen snow.

The Fourth of July:
a monarch butterfly
escapes ticker tape
a parade of butterflies

pet shop window:
bobbing-pink-petals-drinking-
throbbing-snowy-muff.

pet shop window:
bobbing-pink-petals-drinking-
snowy-bunny-muff.

the stable window
has enclosed mother and child
in a candle's glow.

the stable window
encloses mother and child
in candleglow.

pet shop window:
throbbing snowy muff surrounds
bobbing pink petals.

pet shop window:
throbbing snowy muff aglow
bobbing pink petals

pet shop window:
throbbing snowy muff aglow
bobbing pink petals.

pet shop window:
throbbing snowy muff bobbing
pink petals drinking
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Love - Out the Window

Flurries of blossoms
The wind blows in fits?
No! from her window:
My poems torn in bits.

It's spring...
rabbits, rabbits
dandelion cottontails

an erection of mushrooms
the rainstorm passes
erecting mushrooms in the grass

One dusty day, I went away
And promised to return as clay--
Oops! your favorite dish is broken.
But before your wish is spoken,
I am hardy steel and hot:
Now I am your favorite pet.

billowing clouds
custard and cotton candy:
high on the carousel.

Through city hall arch
trailing a pair of French sailors:
the winds of March.

Through city hall arch
trailing a pair of French sailors:
perfuming the March air.

the rainstorm passes...
detecting an erection
of mushrooms in grass.

No flurries of blossoms
The cold wind blows in fits;
From her bedroom window,
My poems torn in bits.

Now flurries of blossoms
No flurries of snowflakes

No flurries of snowflakes
The wind blows in fits;
from her window,
My poems torn in bits.

Now flurries of snowflakes

No flurries of snowflakes
The wind blows in fits;
from her window, she tears
My poems into bits.

high on the ferris wheel:
custard-cotton candy-
billowing clouds.

high on the ferris wheel:
custard-cotton candy-
billowing clouds-and I.
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beneath the old elm tree,
the shadows of saplings
practicing calligraphy.

the old farmer's son
is stuffing the new scarecrow's coat
with company funds.

stands with downcast eyes,
hands what the teacher demands:
Tiny snake in a match box.

...stops to mop his brow,
of course, his heart's in the hammock,
starts the horse and plough...

stands, looking downcast,
hands what the teacher demands:
tiny snake in match box.

stops to mop his brow,
'course, his hearts

stops to mop his brow,
'course his heart's in the hammock,
starts the horse and plough.

stands, looking downcast,
hands what the master demands:
tiny snake in match box.
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the classroom horsefly
perching on the prof's pointer
teaches semantics.

the classroom horsefly
perching on the prof's pointer;
the course in semantics.

the woods in storybook:
an uprooted hickory
bridges the polluted brook.

Tall ships of '76
slipping into New York Harbor;
short night.

The winter wind
has torn the manuscript and more
from Robert Frost's
Winter morning wind
has torn the manuscript and more
from Robert Frost's hand.

Bitter cold morning
has torn the poem and more
from old Robert Frost

The cold morning wind
has torn the poem and more
from old Robert Frost.

the cold morning wind
has torn poetry and more
from old Robert Frost/
the Baptist chapel
weathervane

the autumn wind
wagging colorful tongues
announce the car sale

a wild persimmon glowing in the showcase
ripens a smile on the child's face

A wild persimmon
glowing in the glass showcase
ripens smile on child's face.

empty stadium:
scarecrow dangling from crossbar
hangs in effigy.

empty stadium;
scarecrow hanging from the crossbar
hides the autumn moon.

empty stadium:
scarecrow hanging from crossbar
swings in autumn wind.
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empty park bench
   carved with hearts and initials:
   marble monuments.

pink morning glories
climbing the chain link fence
cling to monuments.

the wind-swept prairie
stampeding tumbleweed
the ghosts of buffaloes

wind-swept prairie
stampeding tumbleweed:
ghosts of buffaloes.

beached dory
covered with fishing net:
sifting mist
tiny sparrow
climbing with vine in its beak:
wall of spring wind.

the empty dooryard
at dusk, a rusty toy truck
filling up with snow.

Now the scarecrow’s gone
from fields where Tairo furrowed
sowing seeds of song,

Scarecrow laden with snow
bowing low to Buddha
the first mosquito
rising from the rain barrel

the clouded moon
climbing out of cumulus shrouds
shines on Tairo’s Tomb.

abandoned pup
whimpering on the dark road:
bitter cold.

the distant farmer
signaling little daughter
whistles for water.
grassy lake bank:
dripping dew has made the moon
the mother of pearls.

a pair of porcupines
picnicking on pine needles
playing pick-up-sticks.

the first mosquito
rising from the rain barrel
on a fly-specked bulb.
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city cicada

screaming gulls on the beach
sharpen the stinging wind;
the bite of greenheads.

Up the mountain path
to the ancient pine, Basho
and Sora approach the shrine

Up the mountain path
to the pine, Basho and Sora
approach the ancient shrine.

Before Memorial Day
before flower thieves
visiting the graves

Before flower thieves,
before Memorial Day:
visiting the graves.

the distant gong
fading in the morning mist

cicada song

Up the mountain path
Up the mountain

leaning on the pump
with its rusty arm flung up:
scarecrow skeleton.

and Sora approach the shrine

farmyard clothesline:
windy sheets and a squawking rooster
shoo a swooping hawk.

where snapping turtles
lay their eggs in the clay bank:
colonial graves.

the autumn moon
climbing out of cumulonimbus clouds
shines on Tairo's Tomb.

Up the mountain:

the shrouded moon
climbing out of cumulonimbus clouds
shines on Tairo's Tomb.

a gust of night wind
rustling sheets and panty hose:
ghosts on the clothesline.

the Zen monk
lights another incense stick:
short night.

another birthday soon:
how many more candles
and short nights of June?

first firefly
fading on a blade of grass:
little brother dies.

where snapping turtles
lay their eggs in the clay bank:
colonial graves.

that mockingbird bard
has upstaged the poetry
reading in the park.

cemetery grass
shaking dewdrops on my shoes:
the wake of the hearse.

tiny paws and jaws
born to hold shiny acorns
in the gnawing cold.
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Up goes the thrown stick,
down comes withered leaves and twigs:
just one chestnut for Nick.

a toy parachute

dangling from telephone wires

buying cold water:
folding his tiny fingers
over a quarter.

the first snowfall:

enough to make it a sin
to lift the garbage lid

to the souvenirs
of the seasons in the lake—
add the first snowflake.

the hearse rumbles by
dispersing flocks of hungry flies:
the cock on the dunghill.

cathedral steps
swept of snow and rice

after the short night
a haiku — and the long day
of the firefly.

after the short night—
a firefly — and the long day
of rewriting haiku.

after the flower thief
before Memorial Day
visiting the graves.

Before Memorial Day

the hearse rumbles by
scattering flocks of hungry flies:
the cock on the dunghill.

the short night closes
a water lily

the short night closes
a water lily opens
on the lake shallows

In the lake shallows,
a water lily opens:
the short night closes.

the dead oak falls
in the middle of the meadow:
little brother calls.

a wheeling its
a wheeling sea gull

veering its handle bars
steers by the evening star

Up the mountain path
to the ancient pine, Basho
approaches the shrine.
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Now the pair of gloves
now the pair of gloves
left by the old pallbearer
holds the autumn wind.

alighting-hopping-
stopping-listening-pecking-
tugging-on-a-worm.

In the wild cherry
filled with caterpillar cocoons:
the misty moon.

the midnight cornfield:
a waving scarecrow frightens
the runaway slave.

wind-blown newspaper
on high, a lone skyscraper
corners the morning sun.

a spring hat,
out of the plum-petaled pond
comes Madam Muskrat.

the fly on the plate
sharpening its knife and fork
tries to eat the steak.

In the picnic park,
a party of cicadas
rattling off verses.
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deserted beach
covered with moonlight, creeping surf
reaches sleeping lovers.

the same old singsong
beaming from the ice cream truck:
billowing clouds.

same old singsong
beams from the ice cream truck:
billowing clouds.

bottoms-up swan
and billowing clouds beyond
bobbing on the pond
the dry lake beds;
cicadas are making
mosaics of mud.

the young violinist
practicing in the attic
scatters the mice.

father and son
standing back-to-back while mother
measures who's taller

lost glove wear's the hand of the wind
a black leather glove
molded by the old farmer
holds the autumn wind
Now the fallen glove
molded by the pallbearer
holds the autumn wind.

the ice cream truck
comes with its same old singsong
billowing clouds
the same old singsong
beams from the ice cream truck
billowing clouds

Now the fallen glove
molded by the pallbearer
holds the autumn wind.

Now the pair of gloves
fallen by the pallbearer
hold the autumn wind
Now the pair of gloves
lying by the pallbearer
hold the autumn wind.

Now the pair of gloves
lying by the pallbearer
holds the autumn wind.

Now the fallen glove
lying by the pallbearer
holds the autumn wind.

On the cellar wall,
pencil marks measure how tall;
the years of the war.

In the wild cherry
clutching tent caterpillars:
the misty moon.
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a crying killdeer
sweeping the field of wild rye
deepens the stillness

the field of high weeds...
a killdeer sweeps and cries:
the sound of the scythe

a distant killdeer meadow
sweeping the misty rye field
deepens the stillness

a distant killdeer
sweeping the misty meadow
deepens the stillness.

autumn afterglow
silhouetting the road stand
the smell of apples.

a summer evening
lying in the coffin
dressed in Marine blues

the dew on the grass

where the battlefield

where the battle
in the jungle came to pass
the dew on the grass

where the battlefield
narrow s to a cattle path:
the dew on the grass.

the frozen willow's b
branches filled with afterglow
the shape of winter.

dew on the coffin
blending with holy water;
a few drops of rain

on the scarecrow's hat,
a young turtledove perches
above the tomcat.

a school of gold carp
scattering in the shallows
scrambles the yellow moon.

the bitter cold wind
has blown the wreath and flowers
from his mother's grave.

silent cicadas
in cemetery streets
the lowering casket

the rainy season:
rank grass reaches the branches
of the weeping willow.

the empty ballroom:
unmasking facing up
to the autumn moon.

empty ballroom:
unmasking facing up
to the full moon.

a sourdough in the sky
left silver dust in the black pan
under thunderheads,
over the far river bridge:
crisscrossing sunbeams.

the ripple's core is the nipple
of the moon.
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cemetery gate
swinging open in the wind
admits the moonlight.

cemetry hill
and the yellow moon beyond;
the smell of the pond.

cathedral steps
swept of slush and rice;
crushed carnation.

cathedral steps
covered with frozen snow;
casket shadow.

cathedral steps
swept of slush and rice
crushed carnation

cathedral steps
flushed of slush and rice
crushed carnation

cathedral steps
swept of slush and rice

the empty dooryard
at dusk, a morning glory vine
climbs the torn clothesline.

the town church bell tolls
and white dragonfly

the town church bell tolls,
and a white dragonfly lights
on my fishing pole.

the town church bell tolls
a gold dragonfly perches
on my fishing pole

the town church bell tolls,
and a dragonfly perches
on my fishing pole

the town church bell tolls,
and a gold dragonfly perches
on my fishing pole.

the old church bell tolls
and a gold dragonfly perches
on my fishing pole.

the distant church bell tolls
and a gold dragonfly perches
on my fishing pole

a gold dragonfly
perching on my fishing pole;
the distant church bell tolls.

the first dragonfly
perching on my fishing pole;
the distant church bell tolls.

a gold dragonfly
perching on my fishing pole;
the distant church bell tolls.

the old church bell tolls
and a gold dragonfly perches
on my fishing pole.

the distant church bell tolls
and a gold dragonfly perches
on my fishing pole.

the first dragonfly
perching on my fishing pole;
the distant church bell tolls.

the old church bell tolls
and a gold dragonfly perches
on my fishing pole.

the distant church bell tolls
and a gold dragonfly perches
on my fishing pole.

the first dragonfly
perching on my fishing pole;
the distant church bell tolls.

the old church bell tolls
and a gold dragonfly perches
on my fishing pole.

the distant church bell tolls
and a gold dragonfly perches
on my fishing pole.

the first dragonfly
perching on my fishing pole;
the distant church bell tolls.
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at the screen door,  
a Marine major comes to call;  
summer nightfall.

the spider-hunter  
with his tiny fist hiding  
his gift for mother.

the spider-hunter  
sure his tiny fist is hiding  
his gift for mother

the spider-hunter,  
his tiny fist is hiding  
big brother  
a gift for mother.

At the screen door,  
Marine Corps Major comes to call:  
summer nightfall.

a crying killdeer  
circling the field of wild rye:  
the sound of the scythe.

the wind-swept prairie:  
a stampede of tumbleweed

dark before the snow:  
a scarecrow's silhouette  
against the afterglow.

the deserted beach:  
a gull perched on the bleached rib  
of the schooner's hull.

alone unmasking  
facing up to the autumn moon:  
that rascal raccoon.
	hree or four sparrows  
perched on the topmost branches:  
how bare the buttonwood.

the town clock's face  
lifting out of the fog  
differs with the dawn

a preening sparrow  
perched on a flowering weed:  
the smell of yarrow.

Another New Year  
of many in the drawer  
a few bright pennies.

Another New Year  
among many in the drawer;  
a few bright pennies.

after the long drought,  
hardly enough rain water  
for the steam iron.

a single ripple  
ringing a water lily  
encircles the moon.

that leaning willow  
is using the swollen lake  
for a finger bowl.
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a white butterfly
through the cemetery gate
in the moonlight
by a rose petal
lying on the small coffin:
a firefly settles
The North Atlantic...
a U boat surfaces:
the dark of the moon.
the North Atlantic
a U boat starts to surface
Christmas long ago
farmhouse ruins:
blossoms, wind leaves and snow
fill the cellar hole
a small freckled face
reflected in Christmas balls
grandfather's eyes

mailman's smoky breath
and scarf trailing in the wind:
the crunch of snow crust.

the first mosquito
is giving the nurse a dose
of her own medicine
as the siren ends,
the alarm clock rings:
a cicada blends.

speaking with students,
meeting their young teacher:
feeling older.

the North Atlantic
a submarine surfaces
the dark of the moon.
dead
beside the marlin
lying on the beach at low tide:
the old fisherman died.

from under the mask
floating on the rain puddle:
the face of the moon.
a faded Christmas ball
reflecting a freckled face
a small freckled face
reflected from the Christmas ball

New Year's Eve aloje
counting mounting pennis
a distant siren
fading in the heat and haze
a cicada
the first mosquito
is giving the doctor a dose
of his own medicine.

a song sparrow
enhancing wild blackberries
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the torn pillow
together with the wind
feathers fresh paint

spring wind and fresh paint
little brother’s pillow

flinging feathers in the spring wind

spring wind fresh paint

spring wind and fresh paint:
little brother shaking feathers
from a torn pillow.

wind-wrapped at half-mast
its halyard slapping the pole
November overcast.

Wind-wrapped at half-mast,
its halyard slapping the pole:
the President’s pall.
the captain’s bell tolls
little brother sings
flinging feathers in the wind
clinging to fresh paint.

the first firefly
reminds me my birthday is soon
since little brother died
the first firefly,
then my thirty-ninth birthday:
little brother dies.

the first firefly—
my thirty-ninth birthday—
little brother dies.

creeping sunlight:
rows and rows of white crosses
shadow the sea below.
beneath the cowbell
in a corner of the cellar
a lone cricket dwells

beneath the cowbell
singing in the wine cellar:
a lone cricket dwells.

my parents grow old,
and I have not married:
bitter cold.
on the rose petal
lying on the small coffin
a firefly settles.
atop the town church,
a crown of air raid sirens
centers the gr
atop the town church,
a round of air raid sirens
crowns the golden cross.
atop the town church,
a round of air raid sirens
crowns the chromium cross.
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the Zen apprentice
emptying the temple

the harvest moon
filling the old pond with light
empties the temple

the harvest moonlight
filling monastery fields
empties the temple.

emptying the temple,
filling monastery fields:
harvest moonlight.

clouds in the creek

a morning glory
lifting its ear trumpet
listens to a bee.

on a rose petal,
on the flag-covered coffin:
a firefly settles.

beneath the waves
resting on the coral reef
the submarine’s grave.

on the scarecrow’s arm
pointing south

harvest moonlight
flooding monastery fields
empties the temple.

abandoned scarecrow
standing in the fallow field
working out karma.

cathedral steps:
flurries of colored confetti
forgetting differences

cathedral steps:
flurries of rice and confetti
forgetting differences.

cathedral steps:

snow

drifting rice and confetti
forgetting differences.

a puzzle of leaves

on the path to Whitman’s Tomb,
not a blade of grass.

In the empty room
flooded with autumn moonlight;
blood stains on the floor.

wind-wrapped at half-mast,
its halyard slapping the pole:
the tolling bell.
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fallow farm
abandoned scarecrow
working out karma.

abandoned scarecrow
standing in the fallow farm
working out karma.

the cathedral steps
snow flurries and confetti
forgetting differences
cathedral steps:
flurries of snow and confetti
forgetting differences.
distant cicada
fading in the heat and haze
the Mexican drought:
a peon facing the sun
paces the parched earth.

the midnight cornfield
the runaway boy
confronting the old scarecrow:
the midnight cornfield.

the midnight cornfield:
a runaway boy confronts
the scarecrow and more.

the midnight cornfield:
a runaway boy and his dog
confront the scarecrow
the midnight cornfield:

the midnight cornfield:
a frightened runaway boy
confronts the scarecrow.

like the turkey buzzard
emerging from a murky cloud
a turkey buzzard
emerging from murky clouds
the night of the blizzard
a true
a turkey buzzard
emerging from murky clouds
bawling calf in the blizzard

a turkey
a turkey buzzard
emerging from murky clouds:
bawling calf in blizzard.

In the still puddle
suddenly twitching - the moon
enmeshed and unmoved.

after the party
alone unmasking facing up
to the autumn moon.

after the party,
alone unmasking
after the party
alone, unmasking facing up
to the autumn moon.

the emptying the
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where red-winged blackbirds
perched in cattail and wild rice
trail of tractor tread.

autumn karma

where Burma Shave rhymes
lined the highway through the pines
signs of spring haiku

autumn karma

crying couple arm in arm
the road from the farm,

the crying couple
sharing karma arm in arm
the road from the farm

walking arm in arm,
crying couple's cruel karma;
the road from the farm

crying arm in arm
walking arm in arm,
sharing a cruel karma;
the road from the farm.

the long winding road
through the pines in the moonlight
short night.

the flag's shadow
stretched to the crater
footprints left on the moon
down rusty rails
converging in the evening sun
a gold butterfly sails

that tattered straw hat
stolen from the old scarecrow
shades the hobo's face.

the cold prairie wind
holding back the golden eagle
spares the jack rabbit.

cold prairie wind
holding back golden eagle
spares jack rabbit.

a cicada fades
and the evening sunshine
depens the shade

a cicada fades,
an air raid siren begins:
the alarm clock rings.

the town atheist
shaking his fist in the air:
distant earthquake.

the town atheist
fist dares to shake his in the air
distant earthquake.
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torn newspaper flies by; the far skyscraper corners the morning star.

the drought no doubt has brought about full moon and empty iron

thistle aloft on the wind's soft whistle; misty moon.

beneath the linden a squirrel pants in the heat

city cemetery where Walt Whitman's buried; pheasant sanctuary.

motel mosquito has caused the cursing night clerk to smear the register

motel mosquito buzzing in the night clerk's ear

farmhouse ruins fills the cellar hole

after spawning dying by the dam at dawn sockeye salmon

farmhouse ruins burying the old scarecrow in the cellar hole

the rejection slip is helping the keep out rejection slip helping to keep out flies; hole in the screen.

the rejection slip pul

the rejection slip plugging the hole in the screen out keeps the green flies.

folding and clipped plugging the hole in the screen rejection slip

folded and snipped plugging the hole in the screen; rejection slip.

folded and snipped plugging holes in the screen; rejection slip.

thistle aloft on the wind's soft whistle tickles the misty moon.

a cicada fades weeping willow; beneath the leery linden the deepening shade.

high sky and heat wave the fag

high sky and heat wave: the flag-covered coffin over the open grave.
PRESS RELEASE

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Virgilio is widely published in the United States, Canada and Japan. He is best known for his work with the experimental haiku, an ancient form originated in Japan. He also composes free and metered poetry, light verse, songs and articles which will be read during the program.

Virgilio has presented successful poetry programs at Cornell, University of Pennsylvania, Villanova, Rutgers, Temple, LaSalle, University of Virginia and other colleges, schools and community group meetings. He also conducts children's and teachers' workshops in private, public and parochial schools. C.B.S. and K Y W Television filmed his poetry workshop for children. He has made many appearances on radio and television.

Virgilio graduated from Camden High School and attended the College of South Jersey. He graduated from Temple University in 1952. Virgilio spent several years as a professional radio announcer before his second career of poet and lecturer, The public is invited to hear the Camden poet. Admission free. The Walt Whitman International Poetry Center is located in Johnson Park at 2nd and Cooper Streets, Camden, New Jersey. For further information, write to Frederick Missimer, Coordinator, Camden Bicentennial Advisory Board, Bureau of Intergovernmental Relations, 22 Haddon Avenue, Camden, New Jersey 08103. Telephone 757-7345 Area Code 609.
village vampire
retiring before first light:
short night.

hospital lobby;
shocked young woman drops
pink carnation.

the old folks home,
and the cemetery beyond
and the city dump beyond.

the city dump
and the cemetery beyond:
the old folks home.

the old folks home,
and the cemetery beyond:
the city dump.

phantoms in the fog
rolling in from old Cape Cod
stroll the widow walk.

the spring morning breeze
is making the old maple
turn over new leaves.

cemetery silence:
cicadas along the fence
sing to monuments.

wind-blown newspaper
flying by, the far skyscraper
corners the morning star
torn newspaper flies by
the far skyscraper
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watching the street light,
looking out at the gate lamp:
snow forecast tonight.

heat and stillness:
tiny caterpillar
climbing on air.

how hot and still:
tiny caterpillar
climbing on air.

hot and still:
tiny caterpillar
climbing on air.

the overcast bay
an empty dory adrift:
the beat of the drumfish.

a distant dory
adrift in the summer heat
the beat of the drumfish
like the buzzard above
balancing on thermal waves

on the overcast bay
an empty dory adrift
the beat of the drumfish

overcast bay
empty rowboat adrift:
the beat of the drumfish.

my curious son
lifting the hem of the habit:
the legs of the nun.

morning mist lifts,
empty rowboat adrift:
drumfish beat below.

crying couple arm in arm:
the road from the farm

an autumn evening...
crying couple arm in arm:
the road from the farm.

early warm weather
has drawn earthworms together
on the withered lawn.

watching the gate lamp,
looking out at the street light:
snow forecast tonight.

the salt water creek:
a great blue heron stands deep
in the yellow moon.
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tenement ruins
marble
urine on the cement stoop
stains the yellow moon.

the first butterfly
has led little brother astray
on the way to church.

the first butterfly
leads little brother astray
on the way to church.

New Year's Eve and more
counting mounting pennies
in the dresser drawer

Mother killdeer
feigning a crippled wing
decoying the fox
city kids and teacher
reaching the heart of the woods:
the polluted brook.

the night he was born,
seventeen times the cock crowed
before the false dawn.

a white butterfly
fluttering through the pine woods:
the path to the dry brook.

the first butterfly:
little brother led astray
on the way to church.

motel mosquito
buzzing in the night clerk's ear:
the smeared register.

First day of May:
tiny emcee begins
the schoolyard play.
cold prairie wind
hold back golden eagle
attacking jack rabbit.

now the shower stops:
cicadas are drowning out
the drip of rain drops.

like the huge boulders
rolling to the edge of the cliff:
the moon on my shoulder.

among tall grass
talking in the autumn wind:
tongues of tombstones.
down silver rails
converging in the evening sun:
a gold butterfly sails.
cold prairie wind
holding back golden eagle
attacking jack rabbit.

where red-winged blackbirds
perched in cattail and wild rice:
tractor tread.
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pregnant peasant pacing her room all night; harvest moonlight.

a distant cock crows; flocks of starlings and sparrows darken the frozen snow.

tenement ruins broken windowpane frames the autumn moon

the church bell tolls

the town church bell tolls and the procession approaches the house on the knoll.

the town church bell tolls and the procession approaches the house on the knoll.

Starting the New Year, recovering from heart attack: ransacked apartment.

the spring tonic has ended wistful hours on a sour note.

on the frozen lake at daybreak, a lone skater breaks the silence checking the gate lamp-- looking up at the street light: snow forecast tonight.

the town church bell tolls and the funeral procession approaches the knoll.

the town church bell tolls: a funeral procession approaches the knoll.

the gypsy campfire dancing in the misty darkness sparks the starry night.

skating on the lake breaking the frozen silence awakens the woods.

the temple bell tolls rolling out on the spring breeze smell of cherry trees.

muffled voices--footsteps shuffling through morning mist: distant warning-bell.

a bright autumn night... highlighting the high school dance: first pair of long pants.

the old folks home, and the cemetery beyond: bitter cold.

the old folks home and the graveyard beyond: bitter cold and grey.

checking the street light, looking out at the gate lamp: snow forecast tonight.