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We had to fight our way to school
Through a maze of alleyways
With survival the only rule,
Only plastic fruit in praise.

We had to fight our way to church
Muddying white suits mom had sewn
For Easter, two brothers in search
Of God with sins to atone.

She lay shaking all night
With Parkinson's disease
Her son was killed in the war

Sick room fly
Lighting on the wash basin:
Autumn nightfall.

Sick room fly
Lighting on the wash basin:
Autumn moonlight.

Sick room fly
Lighting on the white sink:
Autumn moonlight.

She lay shaking all night
day
With Parkinson's disease,
since the Vietnamese war took her son away.

She lay shaking all night,
Shaking her fist at war,
Cursing the Marine Corps
Cruel and senseless fight.

She lay shaking all night
Healthy and happy before
This cruel, senseless war

She lay shaking all night
Healthy and happy before
This cruel and senseless war
With no end in sight.
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We had to fight our way to school
Through a gauntlet of alleyways
With survival the only rule:
Two fists and swift feet on dark days.

We had to fight our way to church
Muddying white suits mom had sewn;
Two brothers, love and Truth, in search
Of God, plunge into the unknown.

We had to fight our way to school
Through a gauntlet of alleyways
With survival the only rule:
Only fists, swift feet on dark days.

We had to fight our way to church
Muddying white suits mom had sewn
Two brothers through a maze in search
Of God, exploring the unknown.
Of themselves

We had to fight our way to church
Muddying white suits mom had sewn
For Easter, two brothers in search
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lily:
out of the water...
out of itself.

transcendence of the ego
rebirth
Virgilic coming out of his shell, that is ego
Virgilic wrapped up in himself, comes out of himself.

the evening sun
through the knothole in the fence:
the autumn wind.

alone in my room
burning the last incense stick
the short night
shaking all night
from parkinson's
shaking her fist
at the war

the tall monk
burning the last incenses stick:
the short night.

shaking all night
shaking a fist
at the war

shaking all night from the war
shaking a fist at the Corps

she lies shaking all night

We had to fight our way to school
Through a gauntlet of alleyways
With survival the only rule:
Two fists and swift feet on dark days.

We had to fight our way to church
Muddying white suits mother sewed:
Love and Truth, twin brothers in search
Of God, travel the dark road.

Of God, skip down the dark road.
Of God travel the long dark road.
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bursting into song

cicadas are warming up

on the way to school

cicadas are warming up

the first

before the school bell,
cicadas are warming up

the first cool morning

before the school bell,
cicadas are warming up

the first cool morning.

the first cool morning:
cicadas are warming up

before the school bell

cicadas are warming up

on the way to school.

early morning cool:
cicadas are warming up

on the way to school.

In the empty house

on fire-blackened bricks

On the fire-blacked

on the firep

on the fire-blackened wall

of the empty house, the outline

of the crucifix

on fire-blackened bricks

in the empty house, outline

In the empty house

outlined on the fire-blackened wall

a small crucifix.

In the empty house

where the small crucifix hung

fire-blackened wall.

In the empty house

where the small crucifix

hung

the fire-blackened wall.

my parents grow old

and I have not married

old mother and son

holding on to one another

following the coffin.

Barnyard gate

forced open by March wind

lets out the lamb.

In the empty room,

measured each birthday how tall;

dark marks on the wall.

high sky and heat wave:

the flag-covered coffin

over the open grave.

This bright New Year's morn:

tossing another copper

in the top drawer.

Old Monticello:
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muskrat house on the marsh
and the harvest moon beyond
the bittern's boom.

Suburban scarecrow
wearing his Sunday suit
follows his shadow to church

Now the days are long
through the blazing heat and haze:
the blue jay's song.

Now the days are long
through the blazing heat and haze:
the song of the blue jay.

Now the days are long
through the blazing heat and haze:
the blue's

Now the days are long
through the blazing heat and haze:
a blue jay's song.

To your feet,
the chrysalis crumbles:
butterfly-woman.

Come, come to your feet
from the crumbling chrysalis:
butterfly-woman.

Come to your feet,
step from the crumbling chrysalis:
butterfly-woman.

empty hotel's
sign swinging in cold wind:
cathedral bell.

Now the scarecrow's gone
from fields where Taire furrowed:
sowing seeds of song.
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after the rainstorm
bees swarm around the bird bath.
the town crank complains.

scarecrow-policeman
whistling in the autumn breeze
directs the snow geese.

after the rainstorm
bees swarm around the bird bath;
the town crank complains.

scarecrow-policeman
whistling in autumn breeze
directs snow geese.

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

abandoned stadium
surrounded by tenements

tiny paws
holding shiny acorn:

wind-blown cattail seed:
a lone red-winged blackbird releases a dead reed.

the town crank complains about

cattail turns to seed,
and the last red-winged blackbird releases the reed

cat tail turns to seed,
and a lone red-winged blackbird releases a reed.

summer evening... 
slipping into black silk stockings:
the knock at the back door

cattail turns to seed,
and the last red-winged blackbird releases the reed
out of a cloud
of cattail seed, a red-winged blackbird releases a reed.

cattail turns to seed,
and a lone red-winged blackbird releases a reed.

wind-blown cattail seed:
a lone red-winged blackbird releases a reed.

the town crank complains
about

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

scarecrow-policeman
pointing in the autumn breeze
directs the snow geese

scarecrow-policeman
whistling in the autumn breeze
directs the snow geese.

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directs snow geese.
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In the nest alone
crying with mouth wide open

on the coffin lid
sprinkled with holy water:
crawling katydid.

Master alone
climbing the hill exhausted
carrying the cross.

bitter cold and gusty
where fire claimed

where the crucifix
hung on the living room wall
fire-blackened bricks.

bitter cold and gusty
where fire claimed

where the crucifix
hung on the living room wall
fire-blackened bricks.

where the crucifix hung

where the crucifix
hung by Christmas candlesticks
fire-blackened bricks.

Where the crucifix
hung near Christmas candlesticks:
fire-blackened bricks.

Where the crucifix
stood near Christmas Candlesticks
fire-blackened bricks.

In the nest alone
crying with mouth wide open:

In the nest alone
crying with mouth wide open:

wind-blown thistle guest.

where the crucifix
stood near wooden candlesticks:
fire-blackened bricks.

the farmer's daughter
armed with a jar of water:
bare feet in the heat.

the farmer's daughter
carting a jar of water
bare feet in the heat.

the farmer's daughter
with a water jar in her arms:
bare feet in the heat.

farmer's daughter
with the water jar in her arms
father ordered.

the empty schoolyard
cathedral steps
swept clean of rice and confetti:
coffin
casket's shadow.

with gladness in her eyes

the first day of school
cicadas are warming up
on the way to school
on the way to school,
cicadas are warming up
the early morning cool.
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In the peach orchard
reaching down into rank grass
dropping brown rot fruit

beneath the ice crust
rising with each gust of wind:
the crest of the creek.

Labor Day week-end:
a parade of cicadas
fades into haze.

the old whore
folding her black silk stockings:
the knock at the back door.

Labor Day week-end:
a parade of cicadas
fades into haze.

Painted matron
fainting at the faded mirror
kisses narcissus.

Wind-blown thistledown

Jim Bull
85 North Hickory
Platteville, Wis. 53818

by the run-down ranch
longhorn skull
at sundown, a scorpion
corners a scorpion

turkey buzzards circle
the fallen scarecrow

After the blizzard,
turkey buzzards circle
the bawling calf.

tenement child
screwing up his courage:
scent of stewed cabbage.

the empty outhouse:
a monarch butterfly
occupies the throne.

Wind-blown thistledown
has deceived the lone nestling
expecting to feed.

After Labor Day,
the parade of cicadas
fades into haze.

Wind-blown thistledown
has deceived hungry nestlings
expecting to feed.

the swooping osprey
touching the moonlight bay
scoops up a whitefish.

In the nest alone

crying with mouth wide open

the distant earthquake
has shaken the scarecrow
out of his pants.
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the snow crust caves in
crembling with each gust of wind:
the rush of the brook.

requesting the priest
who married them
to bless the caskets.

the snow crust caves in
crembling with each gust of wind
tumbling into the brook.

the snow crust caves in
crembling with each gust of wind
tumbling into the creek.

Easter alone
seeking professional help
at peace with myself.

Easter alone
for the first time in my life
at peace with myself

the snow crust caves in
gleeming with each gust of wind:
the rush of the stream.

flying with vine
in its beak trying to scale
the wall of spring wind

flying with vine
in its small beak trying to climb
the wall of wind.

small and weak flying
with vine in its beak trying

the snow crust caves in
gleeming with each gust of wind:
the crest of the stream

where rank grass meets
the tresses of the willow

where tall grass touches
the tresses of the willow

climbing time and again
carrying vine in its beak
scales the wall of spring wind.

climbing with vine in its beak
failing time and again to scale
the wall of spring wind

climbing with small vine
in its beak failing to scale
the wall of spring wind.

climbs time and again

fails time and again
climbing with vine in its beak
scales the wall of wind

climbing with vine
in its beak fails time and again
to scale the wall of wind.

flying with small vine
in its beak trying to climb
the wall of spring wind.

flying with vine
in its small beak trying to climb
the wall of wind.
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wind-blown cattail seed:
  a lone red-winged blackbird
  releases a rice reed.

wind-blown cattail seed:
  a lone red-winged blackbird
  clings to a dead reed.

The city street
  littered with bricks and broken glass
  the sticky heat

spitting in the old well
  a frog jumps through
  the yellow moon.

spitting in the old well
  hitting the yellow moon;
  a bullfrog jumps in.

spitting in the old well,
  hitting the yellow moon;
  sitting bullfrog jumps in.

a gust of cold wind
  raising clothesline

a gust of cold wind
  raising ghosts on the clothesline
  chases the chicken thief.

A gust of night wind
  raising ghosts on the clothesline
  chases the chicken-thief.

the stillborn twins
  lying in the hospital morgue
  the short night begins.

in the hospital morgue
  lies the stillborn twins

the short night begins
  in the hospital morgue
  lies the stillborn twins

a flock of horseflies
  dispersing from the dunghill:
  the hearse rumbles by,

a flock of horseflies
  deserting the dunghill
  the hearse rumbles by

a flock of horseflies
  deserting the rocking dunghill
  the hearse rumbles

a flock of horseflies
  deserting the trembling dunghill;
  a hearse rumbles by.

the old pond,
  and chrysanthemums beyond:
  the autumn moon.

the summer dusk speaks
  in sentences of fireflies
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swooping eagle
tscooping school of herring
eters sea gull.

cemetery hill
filled with rows of small tombstones;
school ruins below.

autumn windblown...

tumbling through the cornfield;
scarecrow's chapeau.

the downcast student
hands what the teacher demands:
tiny snake in match box.

swooping eagle
scooping school of herring
scatters sea gulls.

summer rainstorm
renewing stack of bricks:
smell of wet straw.

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

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

Souls in the fog
rolling in from Cape Cod
stroll widow walk.

Souls in cold fog
rolling in from Cape Cod
stroll widow walk.

the white bungalow
rambling roses on the picket fence
make the difference.

So what if crows
Pick my bones
When I am dead,
I wrap myself
Around their wings
And flap into the night
To taste the flesh
Of poet's words
That hangs from limbs
Unread.

disgusted poet
tossing his pen in the lake
describes afterglow.

Souls in midnight fog
rolling in from Cape Cod
stroll widow walk

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

Souls in the fog
rolling in from Cape Cod
stroll widow walk.

Souls in midnight fog
rolling in from Cape Cod
stroll widow walk.

Shadows in the fog
rolling in from Cape Cod
stroll the widow walk.

Souls in midnight fog
rolling in from Cape Cod
stroll the widow walk.
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the smoking lamp is lit throughout the ship

and the smoking lamp is lit throughout the battleship

a pair of eagles:

nailing talon for talon:

the crescent moon.

Confederate graveyard:

Confederate graveyard at nightfall, a swarm of dead leaves storms the stone wall.

how tall the tombstones silhouetted on graveyard hill

how small the tombstones on cemetery hill

the school ruins below.

Confederate graveyard; at nightfall, swarms of dead leaves storm the stone wall.

how small the tombstones filling cemetery hill

how small the tombstones covering cemetery hill

the school ruins below

rows of small tombstones on cemetery hill:

rows of small tombstones school ruins below.

rows of small tombstones climbing cemetery hill school ruins below

cemetery hill covered with small tombstones:

cemetery hill covered with snowy and small tombstone

the empty farmyard:

a gust of March wind starches guests on the clothesline

dozing at nightfall
dozing on sofa,

burping her ba

dozing on sofa,

burping her colicky son,

opens...closes eyes.

Near the Wailing Wall:
nailing small coffins at nightfall:

the autumn wind.

How tall the tombstones

silhouetted on graveyard hill

on cemetery hill

how small the tombstones

on cemetery hill

the school ruins below.

how small the tombstones

filling cemetery hill

how small the tombstones

covering cemetery hill

the school ruins below

rows of small tombstones

on cemetery hill:

school ruins below.

rows of small tombstones

climbing cemetery hill

school ruins below

cemetery hill

covered with small tombstones:

cemetery hill

covered with snowy and small tombstones

the empty farmyard:

a gust of March wind starches ghosts on the clothesline
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a distant cock crows and flocks of starlings and sparrows shadow the frozen snow.

the campfire girls laugh, and the storyteller's dog wags its tail and barks.

and a ribbon of butterflies sails down the river
under thunderheads, over distant cathedral: cross of sunbeams.

tiny paws holding stolen acorn: gnawing cold.

tiny paws holding moldy acorn: gnawing cold.

the corner newstand
the city corner
a shivering newsboy by the lake at midnight stuck in a muddy field: the wheels of young love.
by the moonlit lake stuck in a muddy field the wheels of young love
by the moonlit lake up to the hubcaps in mud; the wheels of young love,
down by the dark lake up to the hubcaps in mud the wheels of young love
parked by the dark lake, up to the hubcaps in mud: the wheels of young love.

a gust of cold wind raising ghosts on the clothesline guards hens in the barnyard.

a gust of cold wind raising ghosts on the clothesline guards the barnyard hens.

a cicada shell drops in the empty rain barrel rocks in the cold wind little brother building in the giant linden: cicada song.

a lone firefly gliding over the old pond: the yellow moon.

the empty barnyard: a gust of cold wind raises ghosts on the clothesline.

the empty farmyard: a gust of cold wind raises ghosts on the clothesline.
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like the buzzard above,
the gold butterfly below
haloes the old scarecrow.

attacking sea gulls
have backed the hermit crab
into a conch shell

clowning on the clock tower
the autumn wind
thumbing through the Old Testament
the desert New Year

the summer wind
thumbing through the Old Testament
humming the Psalms.

Mass morning mass:
wearing the same hat and dress
stare at each other.

the desert New Year
a century plant

tenement child in rags
screwing up his courage
gags on the spring tonic

the desert New Year
blooming in the moonlight
a century plant

tenement child
screwing up his courage
takes spring tonic.

the desert New Year
screwing up his courage
spews spring tonic

Desert New Year
blooming in the moonlight

Century plant
blooming in the moonlight:
desert New Years.

autumn nightfall
small
where the crucifix hung
on the fire-blackened wall
winter nightfall
where the white crucifix hung
on the fire-blackened wall.

A gust of March wind
forcing open the barnyard gate
lets cut the lamb
roaring

gust of March wind
forcing the barnyard gate
lets cut the lamb.

the convent bell tower
showered with pigeon droppings
mission bell tower
showered with pigeon droppings
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Easter morning:

wearing the same hat and dress
staring at each other.

old pond steaming in the evening sun
all leaves all bottom

empty phone booth
trapped sparrow

empty arena
filled with lion tracks industrious
sign of the cross.

up the snowy trunk
on the rungs of fungus rings:
the footprints of spring.

a blue jay screeches
and a mockingbird repeats
the whistle stop speech.

and a rainbow bridges
the image of the brook.

tenement child
etches trees and wild animals
wet in green cement.

distant drummer
keeps time to the rhythm and rhyme
of the summer river.

Easter alone
in the crowded cathedral
far from home.

Marine Corps Major
summoned to the screen door:
suddenly nightfall.

through the morning mist,
the beat of a distant drum:
the rising river.

through the morning mist
rising from the summer river:
a distant drummer.

a watering fawn
looking up from the brook
watering fawn
looking up from the brook
reflects the dawn.

autumn evening:
leaving the flower thief
 tied to the tomb.

air force search crew
reports the flight overdue:
short night.

by the empty store
standing mute in the moonlight:
wooden indian.

cathedral steps
swept clean of rice and confetti:
coffin's shadow.

distant siren
rising on the horizon:
misty sun.
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the strawberry patch
where grandmother miscarried:
grandfather plows under.

after the blizzard,
circling turkey buzzards:
the bawling calf below.

Old Monticello:
stacking cakes of lake ice and straw
in the cellar hole.

the first cool morning
the first day of school:
cicadas are warming up
the early morning cool
street market hums
through sleet and snow flurries:
hurrying feet.

two silhouettes
stepping off into soft snow
design valentine.

the old mission bell
flushing a flock of pigeons
ushers in the New Year.

nail through my sole
helping an old neighbor:
bitter cold

up the snowy trunk
on the rungs of fungus rings...
footsteps of the sun.

before the school bell,
cicadas are warming up
the first cool morning.
a swarm of bees
confiscate the bird bath
swarming honeybees
incurring the town crank's wrath
confiscate the bird bath.

two silhouettes
stepping off into soft snow
design valentine.

the old mission bell
flushing a flock of pigeons
ushers in the New Year.

nail through my sole
helping an old neighbor:
bitter cold

Bright New Year's morning:
tossing another copper
in the top drawer.

In the empty house
reflecting the autumn moon:
the echoes of shrews.

airport searchlight
sighting the overdue flight:
short night.

airport searchlight
sights the overdue flight:
short night.
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the first day of spring
slowly emerging from mist:
the lingering snow.

where red-winged blackbirds
perched in cattail and wild rice:
the tread of tractor tires

the snowy backyard
showered with sunflower seeds:
cardinals and juncos feed.

In the empty church
darkened by the autumn wind:
I search for the light.

the displaced farmer
has borrowed the scarecrow's arms
and sorrowful face.

monastery cornfield
shorn by the autumn windstorm:
tonsured scarecrow.

Now the linden's bare
an old neighbor's burning house
chills the midnight air.

dozing on the sofa,
burping her colicky son:
short night.

where snapping turtles
bury their eggs by the lake:
colonial cemetery.

abandoned scarecrow
standing in the fallow field
holds a rusty hoe.

abandoned scarecrow
standing in the fallow field
wields a rusty hoe.

monastery cornfield
shorn by the autumn windstorm:
tonsured scarecrow.

the first day of spring
slowly emerging from mist
a distant iceberg.

Where Burma Shave signs
lined the highway through the pines:
haiku on the spring air.

on the littered beach
at dusk, a gust of cold wind
lifts a crushed bittern

behind a tombstone
in the colonial cemetery
a turtle buries eggs

the cemetery
by the lake, a snapping turtle
buries eggs

where a snapping turtle
buries her eggs

aperky blue jay

aperky blue jay
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sporting her spring hat,  
out of the plum-petaled pond  
comes Madam Muskrat.

the cellar screen door  
rumbling in the summer wind;  
the smell of the storm.

colicky baby  
stops crying:  
cicada.

after the rainstorm--  
another world of roses  
in the morning sun.

screaming night herons  
fighting over dead herring  
the bite of greenheads.

the dry cracked earth  
pieces together a puzzle  
of cloud-shadows.

Communion Sunday;  
the long sermon - and the smell  
of frying bacon.

the dry cracked earth  
is piecing together  
a puzzle of cloud-shadows.

sporting her spring hat,  
out of the plum petaled pond  
comes Madam Muskrat.

out of the old pond  
covered with plum petals

after the ball  
unmasking facing up  
to the mirrored moon.

New Year's morning mist  
mixed with smoke, beer and whiskey  
through a wheezy horn.

on the attic floor  
recalling forgotten spring  
faded rose petals.

after the ball;  
unmasking facing up  
to the moon.

the first firefly--  
the far radio tower--  
and the evening star.

Out of the pond  
covered with plum petals:  
Madame Muskrat.

the first firefly--  
the far radio tower--  
and the evening star.

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

Spanish moss and fog  
thickening in the headlights:  
the smell of dead skunk.

a distant killdeer  
in the autumn morning mist  
deepens the stillness
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In the city heat,
  a fetid fetus sitting
In the city heat,
  a fetid fetus sitting
  on the garbage heap.

Rose Basile Green
308 Manor Road, Route 2824
Philadelphia 19128

the siren fades,
  and a cicada deepens
the linden shade.

a cloud of blackbirds
climbing on the horizon
  eclipses the sun.

Now the linden blooms
aggravating allergies,
  activating brooms.

a hearse rumbles by
  and a flock of flies scatter
faraway barking

a cloud of blackbirds
  shadowing the plantation
  eclipses the sun.

a cloud of red-winged blackbirds
climbing on the horizon
  eclipses the rising sun.

dripping spigot--
  snoring all night long--
  cricket song.

spitting down the well
  rippling the moon

O suburban poetaster... 
Robed and slippered dilettante 
Spouting Shakespeare, Homer, Dante--
  winged and laureled versifier
Sing and strum, O golden liar:
Stolen verse from greeting card.
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Sign language silence:
graduation exercises
at the School for the Deaf.

Sign language silence:
attending graduation
at the School for the Deaf.

on the dorm rug

on the bedroom rug
practicing Hatha Yoga

this saltcellar world
strewn on the black velvet sky
a sprinkle of stars.

this saltcellar world
sprinkled on the black velvet sky
a stream of stars.

this saltcellar world
spilled on the black velvet sky:
a sprinkle of stars.

this saltcellar world
spilling on the velvet sky:
a sprinkle of stars.

the old sourdough
is spilling silver dust
on the black velvet sky
the old sourdough on high
has spilled a pouch of silver dust
on the velvet sky.

The Old Sourdough
has spilled a pouch of silver dust
on the velvet sky.

in the old pond
where the crucifix
hung on the fire-blackened wall
the passing hearse
is shaking a few dewdrops
from grass on my shoes.

the passing hearse
is shaking dewy grass
on my new shoes.

a dead fetus
atop the garbage heap
the tropic heat.

a fetid fetus
atop the garbage heap:
the city heat.

a distant drum,
and the summer moon beyond:
the smell of the pond.

a fetid fetus
sitting on the garbage heap:
the city heat.

a fetid fetus
a fetid fetus
sitting on the garbage heap:
the city heat.
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a hermit crab hides
and receding tide reveals
a tiny wriggling eel.

a hermit crab hides,
and receding tide reveals
a tiny eel.

a hermit crab hides,
and receding tide reveals
a tiny squirming eel.

a hermit crab hides,
and receding tide reveals
a tiny bleeding eel.

a hermit crab hides,
and receding tide reveals
a tiny creeping eel.

Master alone
floating in a sunbeam
among dust motes.

little sailboat
sunken in the old pond:
bitter cold.

the stadium ruins
a windblown leaf
here...there
sticks to the hearse

the old pond
now the old pond's
like the old pond
reflecting the autumn moon
bright before the storm:
a sunbeam through the screen door

the missing boy's coat
floating on the old pond
bitter cold.

the missing boy's sailboat
floating on the old pond
mist and bitter cold

at the Berlin gate

At the Berlin gate
a reporter waiting
the short night

halfway through the
looking down the
halfway through the woods,
looking back down the trail:
the sound of the brook.

sign language silence
graduation exercises
at the School of the...
The Walt Whitman International Poetry Center presents one of America's finest poets Nick Virgilio on February 4th at 12 noon in the Poetry Center at 2nd and Cooper Streets, Camden, New Jersey. The Camden-born poet will read from his prize-winning poetry published by Doubleday in the Haiku Anthology edited by Cor van den heuvel. The Anthology is one of the few collections of poems that is a best-seller.

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.
mission bell tower
showered with pigeon droppings
shadows sunflowers.

now the town dump grows
clumps of bowing sunflowers
surround the hoboes.
shadows

winter moonlight
where the crucifix hung:
fire-blackened wall.

morning chilli
mosquitoes filling up
before the fall.

The Zen apprentice
lights another incense stick:
short night.

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

Deep in morning mist,
a dream of weeping willows
leaning in the lake.

chromium cross
surrounded by air raid sirens
perches on the town church.

In the empty room,
where he stood to be measured:
dark marks on the wall.
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the town church bell tolls
and turkey buzzards circle

water cress blooms
along the border of the creek:
the crescent moon.

this morning of snow
two combining footprints
design valentine

a string of footprints
stepping off into soft snow
design valentine.

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

beneath the rusty cowbell
beneath the cow bell
rusting in the farm cellar:
a lone cricket dwells.

beneath the cowbell
rusty
beneath the cowbell
rusting in the musty cellar:
a lone cricket dwells.

abandoned pup
whimpering on the dark road
winter wind.

In the empty room, where he stood against the wall:
pencil marked how tall.

farmer's daughter
with water jar in her arms
hops in the hot sun.

attending the wake
rusty barnyard gate
blown open by gusting wind
lets out the lone lamb.

cousins at the wake
pretending to remember
for the widow's sake.

after the short night--
lightning--and the long day
of rewriting haiku.

a grey squirrel chirrs,
and the early evening breeze
stirs the turning leaves.

the lake bottom bakes
making mosaics of mud:
cicadas.
PRESS RELEASE

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souls in midnight fog
rolling in from cold cape cod
stroll the widow walk.

meatballs in a nest of spaghetti

It's spring...
even meatballs nest in spaghetti.

spring wind
rattling attic windows:
alone.

downcast student
hands what teacher demands:
snake in match box.

spring wind
rattling attic windows:
alone.

in the attic alone

spring wind
rattling attic windows
in bed alone.

the distant scarecrow,
and the harvest moon beyond:
reflected in the pond.

sowing the fallow field
leaning a rusty hoe
against the scarecrow

last night's newspaper
tucked under my overcoat:
bitter cold.

an old newspaper
tucked under my overcoat:
bitter cold.

bitter cold and grey
by an old neighbor's burned home:
rusty nail in my sole.

old newspaper
under my overcoat:
bitter cold.

big mouthed bass
leaping for a firefly:
star in the lake.

bitter cold and grey
by an old neighbor's burned home:
nail pierces my sole.

piercing cold
in a neighbor's burned home:
nail in my sole.

in the fallow field
leaning a rusty hoe
against the old scarecrow.

upholding the old scarecrow