

Poetry Series

Joe Wocoski
- poems -

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Joe Wocoski()

I am a second generation Polish-American living in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. Originally, I came from Southern New England. I have a couple of chapbooks available and I write Shakespeare and Bible word game books, and have recently published an illustrated Kid's book: The Big Burp Theory of the Universe. My poems touch on our human spirit, or lack of it. Each poem has a deeper meaning attached to it, and he hopes you enjoy his poetry and discover America, to see the good and the bad around us and to share the experiences, thoughts and feelings with others.

I hope you enjoy my poetry selects and sample sonnet word game pages on PoemHunter, if you would like to find out more about me please visit my Blog on

Thank you
and God Bless
Joe Wocoski
have a nice day
Joe

Be Not Afraid Of Nature's Beauty

Be not afraid to admire Nature's beauty.
Or hold a dogwood flower.
All things must stop at some point in time,
And thus become an eternal moment, a still life.

All movement stops for the blink of an eye.
All Life seems to freeze before passing by,
For but a single moment in time, a still life
Will come within your reach, just touch it.

Before the summer heat melts the petals that stayed,
Before the rain washes their beauty away,
Before the wind tears them from the trees,
Hold one petal, one seed pod within your hand.
Then let them gently float away.

Joe Wocoski

Magic Midnight Butterflies

Late at night maple butterflies hover
Over iridescent white flowers;
Spreading their love from one flower
To another, unseen by all.

Secretly they flutter in the breeze
Where no one can see them at all.
In the darkness they make their magic
Bringing blossoms from buds to life.

From one flower, then on to another,
They spread their nighttime magic;
Until all are blooming in the night,
And ready to surprise the daylight Sun.

A walk in a garden, or down a path
Reveal their nighttime work
Of flowers blooming everywhere
Without being cared for by man.

(from 'Snowed in by a Warm Fire')

Joe Wocoski

On A Winter Afternoon

A gray mare standing beside
The snow covered wooden fence.
The fence along a country road
Icy and well traveled.

Cars and trucks passing by;
Few noticing the gray mare
Breathing hot fog
From her nostrils.

The gray mare noticing all
Passing by, the wind in her hair,
Ruffling her mane. Patiently,
Standing by the snow covered
Wooden gate.

Awaiting her masters return
From work to bring her safely
Across the country road
To her home, the red barn,
And a meal of winter hay.

Joe Wocoski

On Catching The Summer Breeze

A deep blue sky with light wisps of clouds,
A sail raised high up on the mast,
The rush of water along port side,
Skimming across the lake in your sailboat.

A sail raised high to catch the wind,
The breeze dies down, then becalmed.
Rustling of the sail begins,
The wind returns again.

Learn to duck, and not rock the boat.
Be careful, sometimes you fall in.
Listen and learn from those who know
For they fell in too, so long ago.

Over, and over, and over again,
Until you have mastered the art of the sail.

Joe Wocoski

Seekers Of The Lighted Holy Grail

As if searching for the ancient Holy Grail,
they drive up and down all the back roads
late into the longest night of the year.

Their quest is the myriad of lighted homes,
yard ornaments, and Christmas trees; all lit up
with colored lights to brighten the darkness.

To bring the happiness of childhood memories,
events of wistful thinking to a conclusion,
on this drive through darkened cul-de-sacs.

To seek the perfect light display, a memory
that brings out that warm downy feeling
of past Christmas Eves on this night alone.

Knights of the Holy Decorated Lights.

Worshippers of the Lighted Santa Clause.

Seekers of the Lighted Holy Grail.

Drive on, drive on, not knowing where
the next string of lights will take you.

Joe Wocoski

Shakespeare Sonnet Da Vinci Codes

We have all heard that Da Vinci created his own cryptograms. I thought you might enjoy some simple Da Vinci coded sonnets. For these simple Da Vinci codes, the very first line of one sonnet in this section reads:

Morf tseriaf serutaerc ew erised esaercni
From fairest creatures we desire increase

Sonnet # _____

Evol si ym nis dna yht raed eutriv etah
Etah fo ym nis dednuorg no lufnis gnivol
O tub htiw enim erapmoc uoht eniht nwo etas
Dna uoht tlahs dnif ti stirem ton gnivorper
Ro fi ti od ton morf esoht spil fo eniht
Taht evah denaforp rieth telracs stnemanro
Dna delaes eslaf sdnob fo evol sa tfo sa enim
Debbor srehto sdeb seunever fo rieth stner
Eb ti lufwal I evol eeht sa uoht tsevol esoht
Mohw eniht seye oow sa enim enutropmi eeht
Toor ytip ni yht traeh taht nehwi ti sworg
Yht ytip yam evresed ot deitip eb
Fi uoht tsod kees ot evah tahw uoht tsod edih
Yb fles elpmaxe tsyam uoht eb deined

Sonnet # _____

Ol ni eht tneiro nehwo eht suoicarg thgil
Stfil pu sih gninrub daeh hcae rednu eye
Htod egamoh ot sih wen gniraepa thgis
Gnivres htiw skool sih dercas ytsejam
Dna gnivah debmilc eht peets pu ylnevaeh llih
Gnilbmeser gnorts htuoy ni sih elddim ega
Tey latrom skool eroda sih ytuaeb llits
Gnidnetta no sih nedlog egamirgpil
Tub nehwo morf tsomhgi hctip htiw yraew rac
Ekil elbeef ega eh hteleer morf eht yad
Eht seye erof suoetud won detrevnoc era
Morf sih wol tcart dna kool rehtona yaw
Os uoht flesyht gniogtuo ni yht noon
Dekoolnu no tseid sselnu uoht teg a nos

Sonnet # _____

Teews evol wener yht ecrof eb ti ton dias
Yht egde dluohs retnulb eb naht etiteppa
Hcihw tub ot yad yb gnideef si deyalla
Ot worrom deneprahs ni sih remrof thgim
Os evol eb uoht hguohtla ot yad uoht llif
Yht yrgnuh seye neve llit yeht kniw htiw ssenluf
Ot worrom ees niaga dna od ton llik
Eht tirips fo evol htiw a lauteperp ssenlud
Tel siht das miretni ekil eht naeco eb
Hcihw strap eht erohs erehw owt detcartnoc wen
Emoc yliad ot eht sknab taht nehwi yeht ees
Nruter fo evol erom tselb yam eb eht weiv
Ro llac ti retniw hcihw gnieb lluf fo erac
Sekam summers emoclew ecirht erom dehsiw erom erar

Sonnet # _____

Drol fo ym evol ot mohw ni egsalasav
Yht tirem htah ym ytud ylgnoirts tink
Ot eeht I dens siht nettirw egassabme

Ot ssentiw ytud ton ot wohs ym tiw
Ytud os taerg hcihw tiw os roop sa enim
Yam ekam mees erab ni gnitnaw sdrow ot wohs ti
Tub taht I epoh emos doog tiecnoc fo eniht
Ni yht sluos thguoht all dekan lliw wotseb ti
Llit reveostahw rats taht sediuq ym gnivom
Stniop no em ylsuoicarg htiw riaf tcepsa
Dna stup lerappa no ym derettat gnivol
Ot wohs em yhtrow fo yht teews tdepser
Neht yam I erad ot tsaob woh I od evol eeht
Llit neht ton wohs ym daeh erehw uoht tsyam evorp em

Sonnet # _____

O reven yas taht I saw eslaf fo traeh
Hguoht ecnesba demees ym emalf ot yfilauq
Sa ysae thgim I morf ym fles traped
Sa morf ym sluos hcihw ni yht tsaerb htod eil
Taht si ym emoh fo evol fi I evah degnar
Ekil mih taht slevart I nruter niaga

Tsuj ot eht emit ton htiw eht emit degnahcxe

Os taht flesym gnirb retaw rof ym niats

Reven elieueb hguoht ni ym erutan denier

All setliarf taht egeiseb all sdnik fo doolb

Taht ti dluoc os ylsuoretsoperp eb deniats

Ot evael rof gnihton all yht mus fo doog

Rof gnihton siht ediw esrevnu I llac

Evas uoht ym esor ni ti uoht tra ym all

Thank you very much
Joe Wocoski

Joe Wocoski

Shakespeare Sonnet Number Fumbles

In these number fumble tomfooleries the vowels of each word have been replaced with numbers. All you need to do is figure out which number equals which vowel, then write out the words between the printed sonnet lines, for example:

Wh8n f6rt7 w0nt8rs sh5ll b8s08g8 th7 br6w
When forty winters shall besiege thy brow

Once you get used to seeing these Number Fumbles, you discover that you can actually read them.

Sonnet # _____

8s f8st 8s th92 sh8lt w8n1 s9 f8st th92 gr9w1st

3n 9n1 9f th3n1 fr9m th8t wh3ch th92 d1p8rt1st

8nd th8t fr1sh bl99d wh3ch 092ngl0 th92 b1st9w1st

Th92 m80st c8ll th3n1 wh1n th92 fr9m 092th c9nv1rt1st

H1r13n l3v1s w3sd9m b182t0 8nd 3ncr18s1

W3th92t th3s f9ll0 8g1 8nd c9ld d1c80

3f 8ll w1r1 m3nd1d s9 th1 t3m1s sh92ld c18s1

8nd thr11sc9r1 018r w92ld m8k1 th1 w9rld 8w80

L1t th9s1 wh9m n8t2r1 h8th n9t m8d1 f9r st9r1

H8rsh f18t2r1l1ss 8nd r2d1 b8rr1nl0 p1r3sh

L99k wh9m sh1 b1st 1nd9w1d sh1 g8v1 th11 m9r1

Wh3ch b92nt192s g3ft th92 sh92ldst 3n b92nt0 ch1r3sh

Sh1 c8rv1d th11 f9r h1r s18l 8nd m18nt th1r1b0

Th92 sh92ldst pr3nt m9r1 n9t l1t th8t c9p0 d31

Sonnet # _____

Onthr1ft8 l7v9l1n9ss wh8 d7st th70 sp9nd

Op7n th8 s9lf th8 b960t8s l9g6c8

N6t0r9s b9q09st g1v9s n7th1ng b0t d7th l9nd

6nd b91ng fr6nk sh9 l9nds t7 th7s9 6r9 fr99

Th9n b960t970s n1gg6rd wh8 d7st th70 6b0s9

Th9 b70nt970s l6rg9ss g1v9n th99 t7 g1v9

Pr7f1tl9ss 0s0r9r wh8 d7st th70 0s9

S7 gr96t 6 s0m 7f s0ms 89t c6nst n7t l1v9

F7r h6v1ng tr6ff1c w1th th8 s9lf 6l7n9

Th70 7f th8 s9lf th8 sw99t s9lf d7st d9c91v9

Th9n h7w wh9n n6t0r9 c6lls th99 t7 b9 g7n9

Wh6t 6cc9pt6bl9 60d1t c6nst th70 l96v9

Th8 0n0s9d b960t8 m0st b9 t7mb9d w1th th99

Wh1ch 0s9d l1v9s th 9x9c0t7r t7 b9

Sonnet # _____

2s 2t f8r f07r t8 w0t 7 w2d8ws 090

Th7t th81 c8ns1m0st th9 s0lf 2n s2ngl0 l2f0

7h 2f th81 2ss10l0ss sh7lt h7p t8 d20

Th0 w8rld wll2 w72l th00 l2k0 7 m7k0l0ss w2f0

Th0 w8rld wll2 b0 th9 w2d8w 7nd stll2 w00p

Th7t th81 n8 f8rm 8f th00 h7st l0ft b0h2nd

Wh0n 0v0r9 pr2v7t0 w2d8w w0ll m79 k00p

B9 ch2ldr0ns 090s h0r h1sb7nds sh7p0 2n m2nd

L88k wh7t 7n 1nthr2ft 2n th0 w8rld d8th sp0nd

Sh2fts b1t h2s pl7c0 f8r stll2 th0 w8rld 0nj89s 2t

B1t b071t9s w7st0 h7th 2n th0 w8rld 7n 0nd

7nd k0pt 1n1s0d th0 1s0r s8 d0str89s 2t

N8 l8v0 t8w7rd 8th0rs 2n th7t b8s8m s2ts

Th7t 8n h2ms0lf s1ch m1rd0r81s sh7m0 c8mm2ts

Sonnet # _____

Wh8n f6rt7 w0nt8rs sh5ll b8s08g8 th7 br6w

5nd d0g d88p tr8nch8s 0n th7 b859t7s f08ld

Th7 769ths pr69d l0v8r7 s6 g5z8d 6n n6w

Wll0 b8 5 t5tt8r8d w88d 6f sm5ll w6rth h8ld

Th8n b80ng 5sk8d wh8r8 5ll th7 b859t7 l08s

Wh8r8 5ll th8 tr85s9r8 6f th7 l9st7 d57s

T6 s57 w0th0n th0n8 6wn d88p s9nk8n 878s

W8r8 5n 5ll 85t0ng sh5m8 5nd throftl8ss pr50s8

H6w m9ch m6r8 pr50s8 d8s8rv8d th7 b859t7s 9s8

Of th69 c69ldst 5nsw8r Th0s f50r ch0ld 6f m0n8

Sh5ll s9m m7 c69nt 5nd m5k8 m7 6ld 8xc9s8

Pr6v0ng h0s b859t7 b7 s9cc8ss06n th0n8

Th0s w8r8 t6 b8 n8w m5d8 wh8n th69 5rt 6ld

5nd s88 th7 bl66d w5rm wh8n th69 f88l8st 0t c6ld

Sonnet # _____

2 th3t 129 w0r0 129r s0lf b9t l2v0 129 3r0

N2 l2ng0r 129rs th3n 129 129r s0lf h0r0 l8v0

3g38nst th8s c2m8ng 0nd 129 sh29ld pr0p3r0

3nd 129r sw00t s0mb13nc0 t2 s2m0 2th0r g8v0

S2 sh29ld th3t b039t1 wh8ch 129 h2ld 8n l03s0

F8nd n2 d0t0rm8n3t82n th0n 129 w0r0

129rs0lf 3g38n 3ft0r 129rs0lfs d0c03s0

Wh0n 129r sw00t 8ss90 129r sw00t f2rm sh29ld b03r

Wh2 l0ts s2 f38r 3 h29s0 f3ll t2 d0c31

Wh8ch h9sb3ndr1 8n h2n29r m8ght 9ph2ld

3g38nst th0 st2rm1 g9sts 2f w8nt0rs d31

3nd b3rr0n r3g0 2f d03ths 0t0rn3l c2ld

2 n2n0 b9t 9nthr8fts D03r m1 l2v0 129 kn2w

129 h3d 3 f3th0r l0t 129r s2n s31 s2

I hope you have enjoyed these Number Fumbles, please let me know if you or your friends enjoyed figuring them out.

Thank you
Joe Wocoski

Joe Wocoski

Shakespeare Sonnet Word Scrambles

At the bottom of each sonnet are nine scrambled words. All you need to do is unscramble each word then find and circle each word in the sonnet.

Sonnet # _____

When I consider every thing that grows
Holds in perfection but a little moment,
That this huge stage presenteth nought but shows
Whereon the stars in secret influence comment;
When I perceive that men as plants increase,
Cheered and checked even by the self-same sky,
Vaunt in their youthful sap, at height decrease,
And wear their brave state out of memory;
Then the conceit of this inconstant stay
Sets you most rich in youth before my sight,
Where wasteful Time debateth with decay
To change your day of youth to sullied night,
And all in war with Time for love of you,
As he takes from you, I engraft you new.

sepertenth batedthe gehcan

creste rivecepe luwefast

tenmmco lufencein toyhu

Sonnet # _____

Poor soul, the centre of my sinful earth,
My sinful earth these rebel powers array,
Why dost thou pine within and suffer dearth,
Painting thy outward walls so costly gay?
Why so large cost, having so short a lease,
Dost thou upon thy fading mansion spend?
Shall worms, inheritors of this excess,
Eat up thy charge? Is this thy body's end?

Then soul, live thou upon thy servant's loss,
And let that pine to aggravate thy store;
Buy terms divine in selling hours of dross;
Within be fed, without be rich no more:
So shall thou feed on Death, that feeds on men,
And Death once dead, there's no more dying then.

atgravage eadhrt hirinstore

nertec thead mnnsaio

egrach nievid gainpint

Sonnet # _____

O! from what power hast thou this powerful might,
With insufficiency my heart to sway?
To make me give the lie to my true sight,
And swear that brightness doth not grace the day?
Whence hast thou this becoming of things ill,
That in the very refuse of thy deeds
There is such strength and warrantise of skill,
That, in my mind, thy worst all best exceeds?
Who taught thee how to make me love thee more,
The more I hear and see just cause of hate?
O! though I love what others do abhor,
With others thou shouldst not abhor my state:
If thy unworthiness rais'd love in me,
More worthy I to be belov'd of thee.

beshsntrig eesurf thutag

fuciesinfincy shotluds newtoshirnus

hgitm getnthrs rantwisear

Sonnet # _____

If the dull substance of my flesh were thought,
Injurious distance should not stop my way;
For then despite of space I would be brought,
From limits far remote, where thou dost stay.
No matter then although my foot did stand
Upon the farthest earth remov'd from thee;
For nimble thought can jump both sea and land,
As soon as think the place where he would be.
But, ah! thought kills me that I am not thought,
To leap large lengths of miles when thou art gone,
But that so much of earth and water wrought,
I must attend, time's leisure with my moan;
Receiving nought by elements so slow
But heavy tears, badges of either's woe.

deepsit morete itsdance

thefarst benlim ghtthou

inkth ghnout tarse

Sonnet # _____

Against that time, if ever that time come,
When I shall see thee frown on my defects,
When as thy love hath cast his utmost sum,
Call'd to that audit by advis'd respects;
Against that time when thou shalt strangely pass,
And scarcely greet me with that sun, thine eye,
When love, converted from the thing it was,
Shall reasons find of settled gravity;
Against that time do I ensconce me here,
Within the knowledge of mine own desert,

And this my hand, against my self uprear,
To guard the lawful reasons on thy part:
To leave poor me thou hast the strength of laws,
Since why to love I can allege no cause.

aagstin aonres elyarscc

gthstren tedvercon ctsedef

gelyanstr ncecoens velo

Joe Wocoski

Snowed In By A Warm Fire

A visit to an Inn on top of a hill.
A view, a valley, a village, a pond.
Snow already covering the ground.
Snow falling steadily all around.

The hills, the trees, the branches,
The drives, the roads, the highways.
All are covered in new fallen snow.
All are silent as the snow falls.

Snowflakes large, silent, slowly falling.
Snowflakes drifting, covering the ground.
Snow falling steadily through the day;
Snow falling steadily through the night.

Soon ankle deep, then up to your knees;
Soon three feet covers all there is.
Snowed in. The highways are closed.
Snowed in, as I wait by the warm fire.

Joe Wocoski

The Single Tear Drop Of Peace

The Single Tear Drop of Peace

What if all the tear drops, of all the world,
Were added together for only one year?

Peace would spread near and far
With every rainstorm everywhere.

We would have a river of peace,
A pool of tranquility across all oceans.

All seashores would rest in silent prayer
From those whose tears washed hatred away.

All death and destruction would vanish from here
With each and every tear dropp this day.

No more would we kill each other.
No more would we hurt our brother.

No more would wars rain down upon us,
Instead, peace would reign across all lands.

It all started one day with but a single
Tear Drop of Peace in Your Eye

Joe Wocoski