

Poetry Series

**Pene Burkey**  
**- poems -**

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# Pene Burkey()

I also write using the pseudonym of May Lyn (ML) .

# A Cup Of Comfort

A cozy chair by the firelight,  
A comfy robe to hug-me-tight,  
A chocolate treat to delight,  
A cup of tea brewed just right,  
A chosen poem to recite,  
All in the glow of candlelight.

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Pene Burkey

# An Empty Space

The loss of a parent is hard to bear  
For want of their presence, their love and care.

It's hard to accept we won't have them here  
To celebrate holidays, birthday cheer.

We expect to see them walk in the door  
Like so many times in the days of yore.

Just to hear their voice on the telephone  
Would help us to know that we're not alone.

We will never again say 'Mom' or 'Dad'  
To that one who loved us here, good or bad.

An empty space will be left in the heart  
Till in Glory we meet, never to part.

Pene Burkey

# April Snow

The sky grew dark this April morn,  
The north wind blew his snowy scorn.

Suddenly all was dressed in white,  
Spring turned to Winter by his smite.

Dark clouds passed and the sun shone through,  
The snow was gone and Spring renewed.

Old man Winter tried one last hour....  
But new maiden Spring would not cower! !

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Pene Burkey

# Believe?

People say seeing is believing.

Close your eyes....

Can you smell the rain before it drops?

Can you feel the sun rise or set on your face?

Can you see the beauty of music?

Can you taste the kiss of love?

Can you hear the pain of heartbreak?

Is only seeing believing?

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(inspired by the movie: 'The Eye')

Pene Burkey

# Burkey Books

I have been loaned to you,  
Please return when due.

Always use a bookmark,  
Dog ears make me bark.

Like new you borrowed me,  
From harm keep me free.

Read and learn my story,  
You'll get the glory.

Who-what-when-where-why-how,  
Answer? ....Take a bow!

Pene Burkey

# Cinquain: 2006

Warning:

Morphine slowly

Smothers the breath of life

And brings the sleep of death...ready

Or not.

He brought

Home a puppy.

I feed, groom, and walk her.

I play with her....He loves her....She

Loves me.

Pine tree

Quietly stands

Laden with snow....then bows.

Oak tree creaks and groans in the wind....

Then snaps!

I hate

Bigotry...I

Hate ignorance...abuse.

I hate wastefulness...Yes, I hate.

Do you?

Pene Burkey



# Early Fall

I like best the early fall....  
Shorter days, cool breezes and all.  
Blowing leaves, open windows,  
Refreshing thoughts replace old woes.  
Summer's end means back to school,  
Hit the books, watch out for the 'ghoul.'  
Baring trees display the sky....  
Enjoy the night with stars on high! !

Pene Burkey

# Faithful Felix

Felix was a man of God  
He loved the Lord; He worked the sod.

He gave his all, helped the poor  
His job to teach was not a chore.

Time to hunt; Soldiers went out  
They looked for Felix all about.

Felix prayed; His faith was strong  
He had to hide, outdo the throng.

Found some ruins, hid within  
A spider came and webbed him in.

It spun fast so faithfully  
The soldiers passed; Felix was free.

Silken curtain quickly spun  
Unbroken threads meant job well done.

Felix prayed in thankful bliss  
Named faithful spider, Fidelis.

2005 Pene Burkey

Pene Burkey

# Father Image

I would like to see my Father again,  
And have him help recall those memories  
Of when he would sit down and sing to me,  
Tell me tales enough to fill diaries.

Daddy was tall with a build to beware,  
But those hands they held me so tenderly.  
Of his hair I remember there never was much,  
But had skin that was fair and eyes blue as the sea.

While his discipline was carried out by mere words,  
I would tremble with fear thinking his love I'd lost.  
I only remember Daddy spanking me once,  
To him my stealing a dime was a holocaust!

Whenever I think of my Dad I am saddened,  
Because now I can't share all my moments with him.  
I would like to know that some way he is with me,  
Always near and enjoying my life to the brim.

Pene Burkey

# First Love

First love begun...

  Illuminating,

  Waiting,

Like its always been there.

First love ended...

  Illusive,

  Evasive,

Like its never been here.

Pene Burkey

## For Debbie

A sharpened pencil makes my day  
When I sit down to work or play.  
'Never a dull moment, ' some would say.  
Never a dull point in my array!

Pene Burkey

## For Priscilla

If I could take you with me,  
I would.  
I would take you everywhere if  
I could.

Pene Burkey

## For Suzie

Oh, Suzie, what will you do,  
Now that he's gone and no longer loves you?  
The house has to go, but where do you start,  
When the emptiness there begins in the heart?  
'One day at a time, ' the old saying goes,  
Just lean on the Lord, trust in Him, He knows.  
Oh, Suzie, where will you go,  
Now that you're free and your income is low?  
Apartment or condo, many to see,  
Upstairs or downstairs, two bedrooms or three.  
You need a new home, which one will you get?  
A house seems just right, private and quiet.  
Oh, Suzie, how will you be,  
Now that you're settled with only one key?  
How could this happen to someone like you,  
At this time of life, when there should be two?  
Oh, Suzie, when does it end,  
Now that you're saved and your soul's on the mend?  
May God give you peace, with faith, hope and love....  
You've a Heavenly Home with Him above! John 14: 2-3

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Pene Burkey

# Friend Or Foe?

Oh, to be a friend, not foe....  
To hear God's praise, not His woe.

When boys the same toys want...  
Please, my sons, don't bite!

When mad the tempers rant....  
Please, my teens, don't fight!

When in peace nations won't....  
Please, lands, live don't strike!

God says: Follow peace with all men;  
To forgive is to love again

Pene Burkey



## Haiku: 2005

Babbling brook still runs  
Beneath the blanket of snow.  
Waters of life flow.

Trees bud, flowers bloom.  
Leaves redden and petals fall.  
Beginnings, endings....

Golden butterfly  
drinks from the fountain of youth;  
Only death to vie...

Winds blow and leaves fall,  
Blanketing the ground before  
Cold, wet snow comes down.

(Pine Barrens Summer)  
Aroma of pine,  
moonlight on sugar sand roads,  
and blueberry treats!

(To the Sculpture)  
Within....you're hidden  
From view, until the artist  
Discovers your soul.

The hummingbird's gone  
far away to distant lands  
and taken my fears.

Sun on horizon  
gives light to the mornings and

evenings of my dreams.

(Bleeding Heart Plant)

My full bleeding heart  
is dripping with love for you.  
Please accept my loss...

The warmth of the Sun  
melts the ice on even the  
coldest of hearts won.

Out of the shadows  
Into the cool blue waters;  
Swim warmed by the sun.

Dew on a blossom  
refreshes the bloom; so too  
the tears of first love...

Daisies, daisies all  
around; smelling sweet where I  
am found. Come find me!

Tired from the chase,  
bear sits and contemplates his  
next move....Honey time!

Woodlands walk and watch....  
Nature teaches much to those  
who look and listen.

New day is dawning....  
Hopeful of new life bestowed,  
Barren tree waiting....

Nature's provisions....  
Serene scenes and reflection  
enhance the spirit.

Humpback whale rises  
out of the cold, grey waters  
seeking the warm sun.

Large, lonesome creature  
submerges....graceful, silent;  
Whale's tail waves goodbye.

Displayed on a log....  
beautiful, blue butterfly  
clears my mental fog.

Pene Burkey

## Haiku: 2006

The April snow flakes  
Falling, covering all are  
Cherry tree petals!

(Haiku for Jo)  
Lady Slipper search  
Proves fruitful once more....Two hearts  
In the pink again!

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# Hail Springtime!

It's time for the Peepers to sound,  
And Snowbirds to be northward bound.  
Flowering trees have blossoms round....  
Hail Springtime with its beauties found!

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Pene Burkey

# Hat Full Of Hope

Wherever you go  
Whatever you do  
Wear this Hat Full of Hope  
Woven specially for you.

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Pene Burkey

# Hello

You've come to this country  
With its 'Welcome' mat out,  
Knowing English we speak  
And founders' faith, no doubt.

You're free here to worship  
And use your native tongue.  
We fought for that right and  
To liberty we clung.

**BUT....**

Don't try to block our faith  
Or prevent public use.  
We will not hide our light  
In fear of the abuse.

**AND....**

Learn to communicate  
And get along with us.  
Reading, writing, speaking  
Our language is a must.

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# Hide Or Seek

I sit and watch the kids at play,  
They seem to copy the news today.  
I sometimes wonder what they think,  
When they're sitting down to eat and drink.  
Do they dwell on blood, bombs, and guns,  
Or the breakfast, lunch, and dinner buns?  
I hope they hear the other side...  
Seek freedom and never again hide!

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# Janet

Janet, the mother that you knew so well,  
Janet, my sister - I've not much to tell.

I remember a pretty blonde teen,  
Twirled the baton like I've never seen.

The beautiful bride and her Marine,  
Wedding right out of Bride's Magazine.

A lovely mother of three cute girls,  
Who handled life as well as she twirled.

Janet the wife, the mother and more,  
And a Bell Telephone Operator.

Janet loved to party and to dance,  
Crocheted an afghan when had the chance.

Traveled the country to see the sights,  
Rafted the rivers and climbed the heights.

I wish she could have known all my boys,  
Of Aunt Janet, they've missed many joys.

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# June

Now every June will come and go  
Without the mother I loved so.

The painful struggle she endured  
With grace....I felt so hopeless, Lord.

When Spring comes 'round again next year  
Only memories I'll have near.

Please take the bitter, leave the sweet,  
Then hopeful may each Spring I greet.

(Spring 2004)

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Pene Burkey

## Love Is...

Bending down to get their glove,  
Not thinking of yourself...above.

Giving those who need...a ride;  
Walk not in front but at their side.

Just to lend a listening ear  
May lift someone that's sad...to cheer.

On your visit to their home  
Read to them a timeless poem.

Offer help to those in need;  
Love is shown by selfless deed.

Give to those who can't repay;  
Truly this is love's own way.

Pene Burkey

# March

Yesterday was like a dream,  
Warmed ourselves in the bright sunbeam;  
The first burst of Spring!

Today says, 'There's more to go,  
Out in the freezing, blowing snow! '  
The last blast of Winter?

Pene Burkey

## Musing With Priscilla

When I sit at the computer  
She wants up into my lap,  
It's so hard to type and hold her  
She's not there to take a nap.

There's a window she can look through  
Watch for squirrel, bird, dog, and cat,  
When something comes into her view  
She's a hyper acrobat!

Amid all the noise and flurry  
I lose my concentration,  
I put her down in a hurry  
And go to retrospection.

When she loses sight of her prey  
Back she comes to her lap perch,  
I hope she settles down to stay  
And stops her nature research!

Pene Burkey

# My Favorites...# 1

A cemetery is  
My favorite place to  
Sit quietly  
In silence....  
And listen.

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## My Favorites...#4

A forest footpath is  
My favorite place to  
Wander widely  
In wonder....  
And watch with wisdom.

Pene Burkey

# Nature

The sun is the seed,  
The moon is the fruit.  
The earth is the blossom,  
The universe the root.

The sun is the sperm,  
The moon is the womb.  
The earth from the birth,  
The universe its tomb.

So choose what you will,  
They're one and the same:  
Birth, life, and death  
Is nature's game.

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## Nature's Love

Where the trees grow straight and tall,  
Where the waters flow and fall,  
Here you'll find a peaceful grove  
For us to share with those we love.

How tall will the trees grow?  
How far will the waters flow?  
Forever will our gifts abound  
If a joy of living can be found.

Pene Burkey

# Nic's Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving in November  
Is the time to remember  
People, places, and the things  
That make me smile, laugh, and sing.

Mom and I will read a book,  
Gran will mix the foods to cook,  
Dad and brothers watch the game,  
The I list each blessing's name.

I am glad for family love,  
And for God who lives above,  
And for friends....we have a ball,  
At my house that welcomes all.

Pene Burkey

# Poetry Is....

Poetry Is....

A time for every season

And a rhyme for every reason

Or is it....

A season for every time

And a reason for every rhyme?

Or could it be...

A rhyme for every time

And a reason for every season?

Then again, maybe it's...

A time for every rhyme

And a season for every reason!

Pene Burkey 2012

Pene Burkey

# Read

What is it you would like to do?  
Do you want to learn something new?  
All you will ever need to know  
Is in a book....Read it and grow! !

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Pene Burkey

# Santa?

What did Santa leave under my tree?  
He left hugs and kisses for me,  
A safe year without injury,  
The family I treasure dearly,  
Friends who love unconditionally.  
God gives, and I receive joyfully!

Pene Burkey

# Skateboard Lord

He gets up in the morning  
And goes out the door,  
Jumps onto his board  
And skates to the store.

After school he grabs a snack,  
Then skates down the street,  
Without looking back,  
To the friends he'll meet.

Off they go, boards roll and wind,  
Up curbs, then down ramps,  
Catch the rail and grind....  
Stay off your behind! !

Home again, its dinner-time.  
Knees bleed, voices whine,  
Doctor up and eat....  
Time to hit the street! !

Three-sixty flip off the ledge,  
Ollie, keep the edge....  
Elevator down.  
Say 'Goodbye' to town.

Home again and time for bed.  
Dreams of grip tape rips,  
Broken trucks, split boards....  
All in the day of  
Nic, my Skateboard Lord! !

Pene Burkey

# Skateboarding

When I go rolling on my skateboard,  
I feel the wind blow on my face.  
My body glides along in freedom,  
And then my foot keeps up the pace.

I must lean just right to make the curve,  
Then get my balance back on track.  
I look for the chance to do a trick,  
I start the move....no turning back.

I catch the air and do a kick-flip,  
The board goes round and meets my feet.  
I get anxious as I start a trick,  
But glad its ended safe and neat.

My board becomes part of my body,  
I cannot be whole without it.  
What if it breaks and leaves me stranded?  
How can I get there? .....I'll just sit! !

Pene Burkey

# Tanka: 2006

His graduation  
Amid Blue Ridge Mountains with  
Family, friends, and  
Senator John S. McCain....  
Memories for a lifetime!

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Pene Burkey



# The Church

The Church is not a building;  
It's a body.  
It has no rooms for cleaning,  
Or a lobby.  
You cannot paint its walls -or-  
Greet in the halls.  
The Church is not a building;  
It's a body.

The Church is not an office;  
It's a body.  
It's not a place for business  
Or a party.  
It's not where we meet -or-  
Where we take a seat.  
The Church is not a building;  
It's a body.

The Church is not in town;  
It is the City.  
It's not built upon the ground  
Or with money.  
You can't hang up a sign  
On brick, oak, or pine.  
The Church is not in town;  
It is the City.

The Church is the Bride;  
Jesus is the Groom.  
Together they abide  
As new Jerusalem.

The Church is the Kingdom;  
Its light is the Lord.  
For us He has come,  
So faithful is His Word!

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# The Kite

Grab your kite and  
Come on let's go,  
Out in the fields...  
Where March winds blow.

Run to the wind,  
Hold your kite high,  
Feel it lift up...  
And touch the sky! !

Pene Burkey

# Those Old Black And Whites

'Mom, why do you watch those black and white movies?  
They're part of our history, Son.  
Mom, what do you get out of those boring old movies?  
Memories for a lifetime, Son.  
Mom, all those people are dead!  
But they really knew how to live then, Son.  
Mom, they're so old-fashioned!  
Yes, Son, I guess I am.'

Pene Burkey

# Thoughts

I wonder how the world began...  
And how did life come about?  
Who determines fiction from fact?  
Can you help me out?

What was I before my birth,  
And what exists after I die?  
If all begins and ends the same...  
Why do we try and try and try?

What purpose will I serve  
If I can choose my way of life?  
Am I to follow a path of fate,  
Or do I decide my ease or strife?

I wonder if the world will end...  
Then for what did life amount?  
What is real and what is not?  
Can you help me out?

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Pene Burkey

# Treasured Time

Eleven-thirty!  
Great goodness Gerty  
How the time does fly....  
When I'm having fun  
With books in the sun  
Days go marching by!

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Pene Burkey

# Walking The Dog

The air was hot, humid, and heavy  
When we ventured out.

As the sun beat down upon us  
She pulled me quickly along,

Then stopped in the shade of a tree  
And allowed the cooling breeze  
To refresh the air we breathed.

Standing still with her hair blowing gently,  
I lifted my arms as a bird would wings,  
And we enjoyed the moment pleasantly.

I urged her along to continue our walk.  
Reluctant to start off, she gave in  
As she spied our next 'rest area.'

On our hot summer walks we now become  
Explorers in search of the next shade tree!

Pene Burkey

# What Is A Poem?

To rhyme or not to rhyme  
Is not the question.  
Neither is it based on  
Facts or on fiction.

Whatever is in your  
Heart or mind or soul,  
Put it down on paper.  
Sharing is the goal.

To judge or not to judge  
Is not the answer.  
Someone will relate to  
The scenes you empower.

Remember, words have life.  
They can help or harm.  
A 'good' poem or 'bad' poem  
Has spirit to charm! !

Pene Burkey



# Winter Vacation

As far as we can see,  
The fields snow-covered be.  
The wind picks up a load,  
Blows snow drifts 'cross the road.  
Barren trees are at rest,  
Count the many bird nests.  
Farmer's work has slowed down,  
Time to shop....off to town! !  
The holiday is here,  
Brings festive family cheer.  
The days go by too fast,  
To make vacation last.  
Iowa....soon we leave,  
Take roads that wind and weave.  
Head east towards Ohio,  
New Jersey....home we go.

Riddle:

What two words are spelled the same,  
But have a different sound,  
One is used as a verb,  
The other as a noun?

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Pene Burkey

# X-Arena

When they're gone we won't forget....  
Bill and Sandy get our 'Thanks'  
For having a dry, safe place  
And even sold drinks and franks.  
They built it with loving care,  
Kept all of the kids in line,  
And....  
They also had time to share.

X-Arena is closing....  
Sadly we say, 'Good-bye.'  
Bikers, bladers, and boarders  
Hit the streets again....'Oh my! '  
Get to know them, take the time;  
Give them a break and some space,  
'Cause....  
Skateboarding is not a crime!

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# Yellow Polka Dots

Dandelions are out and about...  
A menace to some who mow, no doubt.  
Many wine-makers with glee will shout...  
To them this flora has taste and clout.  
You gardeners may think me a lout...  
I go the yellow-dotted green route!

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Pene Burkey

# Yesterday

How was your yesterday?

What did you do?

What did you say?

Where did you go?

Who did you see?

What stays in your memory?

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# You Don'T Know That I Love You

You don't know that I love you...  
You're 18 and moving out today  
To seek your freedom, you think-  
To smoke, pierce, tattoo; No curfew.

You don't know that I love you...  
Obscure to you are the times-  
I worried you weren't getting enough to eat,  
Or that I couldn't protect you from the world.

You don't know that I love you...  
Forgotten by you are the times-  
When in rebellion you'd run away,  
In love I'd seek you safely home;  
Of the dark crowd of friends you chose  
Over the loving light that Jesus shows.

You don't know that I love you...  
But do you remember-  
When your words to me hurt so much,  
In anger I'd spit them right back at you?

You still don't know that I love you...  
But one day I hope you will.

☑ Love, Mom

Pene Burkey