

Humanities Agora 2022 College Poetry**First Place****Bobby Lawrence's Collection of Poems (pp. 1 – 45)**

MEMORIES

Rainy days, fog my mind

Reminding me of a happier time,

Past memories make me feel uneasy,

Some of them leave me downright queasy,

Some take me right back to the day they occurred,

Making me feel as happy and free as a bird,

Some making me feel as small as a worm,

That's the funny thing about life,

On top of the world and so tall,

Or down in the dumps and left feeling small

Up and down like an elevator,

The joys and troubles of life will always hit you later,

Positive or negative,

I can feel them all,

Dragging me back or lifting me up,

The waves of life crashing and cresting,

Like a wave washing over me,

Making me feel everything

Or nothing at all

Black and Gold

A new season begins,

With fans returning,

A new hope begins burning,

With new players and renewed optimism too,

A new hunt begins for this storied franchise,

Playoff hopes loom and a super bowl too,

Let it start with a booming return,

With black and gold filling the stands,

Steeler nation is waiting to begin again

Heartbreak

Are you ever gonna change,
Or are you doomed to remain,
Never changing or growing,
Destined to stay the same
Because you can't release the pain

Are you ever gonna change
Because you won't let yourself heal,
Because you don't want to feel
This pain growing inside,
Makes you wanna run away and hide

Are you ever gonna change
And let yourself grow
And let the hurt go
Don't wanna hurt or you'll go berserk
So here you are not feeling a thing
Just letting it sting

Not feeling a thing,
Leads you to feeling everything.

OPEN

Scared to trust

But again, I must

Scared to put it all on the line

But I must in time

Can't run away forever

So, I must sever this piece of me

To discover what I will be

First on my own

And better alone

But greater together

You will recover

To better discover

The person you can be

In new company

LIKE A SHELL

Late at night

In the pale moonlight

Feeling so alone

Not knowing where to go

To find yourself

To find someone to help

So, I toss and turn

While the feeling wells up and burns

Panic and anxiety *set in*

Pinning me down like I weight I cannot shake

Lying there awake

Feeling my mind break

Waking up each day ready to go again

Putting on a brave face

But nothing can hide

This feeling inside

That I will never belong

So, you fake it along

Just to fit into place

AMERICA

A world sometimes united

But somehow always divided

We come together for holidays and pride

But anything chaotic will always divide

Whether it is war of opinion

Or the war of man

There will always be two sides

That divide the lay of the land

DEEP BLUE

Love is like an ocean

Waving and cresting all around

Knocking you down

And lifting you up,

Love is like an ocean

Highs and lows

Bringing you up

And dragging you under,

Love is like an ocean

Its beauty like no other

Barely anything on top

But true love is everything down under.

Groundhog Day, the same old same old

Every day is the same,

A young man exclaimed,

Nothing new or better to explore,

Until he uncovered; a sight never discovered,

Another same old day.

Summer Daze

Summer daze,

Catch me by surprise,

Where did the days go?

It feels like it just started

Now almost gone in the blink of an eye

Summer daze,

Wish I could take it back

To relive days gone too fast

Wish I spent more time living

Instead of just surviving

Summer daze,

Always wishing I could take it back

But life isn't spent in the past

Gotta live while you can

Or the summer daze will wash you away

STRANGER

An ode to someone I adore

With eyes as blue as the shore

With hair that shines like gold

A beauty only rarely able to hold

With a laugh that can make me smile

When I hear it, everything is good for awhile

A smile that could light up the room

When I see it, I simply swoon

With a voice as sweet as music

Like a song, I never refuse it

And charm that could abuse

But for me, it simply amuses

For this person, who doesn't know my feelings exist

So, for now I must resist

Soliloquy of Fate

After everything that has happened I have no spite toward you

Because in the end I will cause more pain to myself than you could ever do

So, I must let karma and fate handle your punishment

For the spiteful things you do

Because for now I am simply above it

I cannot hurt someone I once loved

I must simply rise with love and no hate

Because the past is the past

I must let life decide your fate

Now and always so that I can live another day.

Partner in Crime

Trying to find myself,
Is like finding my way through a dark room.
Without you I am lost
But I must soldier on
To find better days
To find another way
Trying to find myself,
Is harder than I thought
Because being without you
Is something I never wanted to do
I thought you would be here forever
But one day I know we will be back again
Trying to find myself,
Wanting to find a way to make you proud
My biggest supporter
From a distance or by my side
I know you will always be here
Helping me find myself

Darkness

The sun rises again,

On the darkest days my friend,

The sun rises again.

Autumn Breeze

Fall is coming,

Closer and closer each day

From dewy mornings to cooler nights,

The season change seems to alert my sight,

Bare trees and changing leaves,

From shorter days and Friday night lights,

The season is here, no changing that,

The season is here, always approaching fast.

Snowfall

Snow falls on the ground

Soft and fluffy like a cloud

Cold misty beauty

Warm misty mystr'y

Cold beauty and mystery.

Mindless Getaway

Quiet seas and crashing waves,
Violet skies and peaceful nights,
Nothing can touch me here all alone,
Locked away in a happy home,
My place to run and my place to hide,
Where my restless mind goes to unwind,
In the back of my mind, where I feel all alone,
Where nothing can touch me and I feel so far gone,
My happy place is where I go to fit in,
The place I go to feel okay again.

Shell

Peace and serenity are what I seek to find

But once again I get lost in my mind

Self-doubt runs rampant and I lose myself

Confidence is nonexistent,

Everything I do is full of doubt

And I can't find myself without a shout

In the distance is where I stay

Hoping to show up again one day

Now for me I am always here

But my mind is fighting to find itself

To find what it used to be and what it used to see

A person not divided in two

But someone who always knew

What they could do and see

To rightfully find who I am

Darkness

When I see a shadow

I see myself dark and hollow

Fighting for the light

The Fighter

Always fighting to win

But somehow losing in the end

I tell myself it'll be okay

But with every loss I slip away

Always told I'm not enough

When do I win, when will it end?

What will take away triumph this time

Always looking for the downs and never the ups

When will I ever be enough?

Perseverance

A distraction is what I seek,
To clear my mind from the darkness that waits,
Pulling me down when I'm alone,
With nothing to do and nothing to say,
Trying to keep my mind from whisking me away,
Giving me something to hold *in* its place,
To keep me going and pull me away,
So, I can forget you and the pain you gave,
And find a way to fight another day.

Life is like a rollercoaster,
No straight and narrow path,
Twists and turns *lie ahead*,
To brings joy and also dread,
To have the highs and *the* lows,
Life is all over the place,
No need to stress,
One day you will find,
The life that fits you best.

Work of Art

If I could paint you in color,
I'd choose red, black, and orange,
Colors of fierceness and will
And independence too,
With a dash of white for the purest soul.

If you were too be sculpted and built,
Where Only the strongest materials *would be used*,
Iron, steel and marble too,
To show strength and beauty,
All things that define you.

If songs were to be written about you,
Inspiration would ring through and through,
Songs about your piercing eyes and golden hair,
Love songs would fill the air,
Nothing but the best for a lady so fair.

Artists would know no bounds for a woman like you,

Strong, independent, and beautiful too.

Stone

Like a fossilized creature covered in waves of gold,

Amber waves wash over me stopping me cold,

Brown eyes shining in the sun,

They have me speechless and stunned

Beauty, shining bright, bold.

Holidaze

Cool nights and cool days,
Seem to melt my blues away,
The still calm of an autumn morning,
Gets my thoughts flowing,
Freeing you up to try new things,
New events you may have never done,
Like picking pumpkins and visiting abandoned houses,
Or building a snowman and seeing the lights,
Getting me ready for my favorite time of year,
With new things to do and celebrate,
This time of year, can melt the gloom away,
Freeing you up to start a new day,
With new experiences in your way,
Better get out there before time passes you by.

Ignition

A new season brings,

A feeling of change and anew,

Ready to spark you.

A New Me

I lay awake at night,
Excited for a new day,
To find myself away,
Working on me and what we could be,
Done sitting in the past,
And feeling sorry for myself,
Ready to take on the day,
And build a new way,
Wanting to feel whole and feel like me,
And take on a new challenge,
A new day,
And finally get out of my own way.

Dreamgirl

Eyes and hair,

Shining like a wet stone,

With amber waves shining bright,

Takes me by sight,

Takes my breath away,

Lights up my world and makes my day,

Just to catch a glimpse of a goddess,

But I may be too modest,

But to me, she is everything.

Divided States of America

Red, white and blue,

The colors we fly,

That bring a tear to your eye,

But is it for pride,

Or for a nation divided,

For happy or sad,

For pride or healing,

This tear holds more than one meaning,

A nation divided that needs all the help it can get,

A nation once united now divided,

Split in two and now seeking anew,

A new way of life or a new direction,

Something new to pull us together.

Will us to be united.

Comfort Zone

Is change good or bad?

Pushing you out of your zone,

Making you feel alone,

Bringing forth a launch pad,

To land you on your path.

Running on Empty

Like the sands of a glass,

The hours always slip by,

Trying to catch a second,

A moment in time.

Trying to find a passing moment to ease my mind,

To help me unwind,

Always running but no destination in mind,

What I would do just to freeze time, so I could have a moment,

Of peace, of time to run away.

Hourglass

Like the sands of time,
Always getting away from me,
So, does a busy day.

Lovelost

The love I had, gone

And then I see her again,

And it all comes back,

Rushing like a wave,

Those blue eyes hit me like a wave,

From which I cannot get away,

Pulling me back and under,

Washing me over, to be reborn,

Wishing to never know something like you again.

Offspring

There once was a man named Robert

He was a once famous robber,

Who later met a woman of who he was fond

And had a kid to call his spawn

That grew to be like her father.

Reflection

If I could lock time in a bottle,
I'd only live life half throttle,
Enjoying life day by day,
And letting the hours slip away,
But sadly, no time for a remodel.

Starving

There was a man who hated winter,

There was no way to find dinner,

He tried again in the spring,

But couldn't find a thing,

So, then he slowly became thinner.

Hidden

There once was a boy named Lue,
He didn't know what to do,
He lost his shoe in the creek,
He hid it for a week,
Until mom saw the dog was wearing shoes.

Dancing Pants

There was a man who never wore pants,
Who wanted to go to the dance,
There once was a bouncer,
He said sir put on your trousers,
The man said I don't need pants to dance.

Whirlwind

There was a man with no wife

He thought to himself, what a life,

Until one day, he met this girl,

Who turned him for a whirl,

He said where's the knife.

Shocktober

October is a month of sights and frights,
From barren trees to ghastly thieves,
From leaves on the ground to don't make a sound,
A month full of frights and scary sights,
Ghosts all around adding a chill to the air,
Cold nights adding an extra chill to your spine,
With a cup of cider to warm you up,
And pumpkin spice to fill your cup,
Whatever you seek,
Scary or fun,
October is the month second to none.

Man's Best Friend

There once was a man from Derry,

Who had a cat named Gary,

He had three legs,

And a hole in his head,

Just like his best friend Larry.

Fall for All

Brown, orange, and green, the colors of fall,
The colors that make up the best season of all,
The leaves on the ground and the pumpkins all around,
These are the sights that make up this cozy time of year.

Red, white, and black, the colors of horror,
The colors that make up the murder scene,
They attract fright and fear at every sight,
Torture and horror at every turn.

All these colors, all unique,
All of them show the turn of the tide,
A dying of things and a coming of anew,
Colors of torture and excitement.
Something for one and something for all,
In this wonderful season of fall.

Excuses

Never enough,

Never feeling love,

As it's in my hands,

It somehow slips away.

Always too much,

Either too good or not quite enough,

What can I do to please you?

What can I do to finally be enough?

Always an excuse to never get close to you,

Always excuses and broader goals to confuse you,

I'm tired of trying to please everyone else,

What can I do to better myself?

Never change to better yourself for someone else,

In the end you will always lose yourself.

Shortcomings

Lying awake at night asking why,

Why I never win,

Why I never come out ahead,

Wondering when I'll be enough,

When I'm deserving of love,

Always coming close but still so far,

What can I do to raise the bar?

Beginning to End

The same old cycle,

Find someone you like,

Get to know them and talk every day,

Keep making plans but life gets in the way,

Slowly drift away and lose all hope

Hit reset and do it again,

It's a cycle, it never ends.

Holiday Cheer?

A time of happiness and joy,
Just makes me feel annoyed,
The holidays normally bring cheer,
But for me its just another time of year.

A time for friends and for family,
Its just not the same,
Some knew how to bring the cheer,
But with them gone its just not the same.

It's never about presents,
Or a gift giving exchange,
It's about family,
But for most that's seemed to change.

Holiday cheer?
To me its just another time of the year.

Some people will never change,

Like the seasons, showing new,
But somehow the same.

Second Place

Rest in Peace Humanity

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History repeats itself it's said;
And once again the roads bled.
Yet another name to be in the limelight,
For people to speak gibberish and fight;
Question her indecency and not her plight.
After hours of suffering when she's dead;
Tell them to stop pretending that they cared.
Every next day we hear something new;
Such incidents are nationally stewed.
No more do we need silent candle strolls;
But call quick decisions against the coles.
She was never safe nor is she today;
Just fear builds up within her every day.
May be doctor, lawyer or an engineer;
Degrees don't decide her future here.
However illiterate chauvinist lusty heirs;

Decide her destiny on what attire she wears.

Here safety is just a dream with vanity;

Because I believe, rest in peace humanity.