

# 11

seasons  
of poetry  
on the buses

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SEASON

11

October 2021 - June 2022

## Affinity

Margaret Chula

Portland, Oregon

OCTOBER 2021 | 011-01

Claws anchored to the riprap, a great blue heron dozes.

I stand on a sandbar, on the edge of earth and water  
alone and discontent waiting for a sign.

Then, alerted by sound or motion or perhaps a shadow  
across his great closed lids, the hunched Rodin awakens—  
lets out a squawk that hoists him beyond water into sky,  
wings flip-flapping against the ebbing light.

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## A River's Voices

Daphne Clifton

Portland, Oregon

OCTOBER 2021 | 011-02

Song sparrows ardently sing up the sun  
as a quiet river moves through our town.  
Look closely among the maples and oaks  
for signs of the first peoples who named  
this river. Listen carefully—the river  
has memorized their voices, their songs.  
Listen. She's singing to us now.

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## Footprints

Paulann Petersen

Portland, Oregon

Each day you leave—  
wherever you've stepped—  
the shape of your journey.  
Go where you're needed.  
Step with care. From that earth  
left behind as you walk,  
your faint trail shines.

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## A Map of the Universe

Rena Priest, Washington State Poet Laureate  
Bellingham, Washington

Someone once told me,  
“The longest distance between  
any two points is a shortcut.”  
Maybe so, but only if you get lost.  
Luckily, getting lost is impossible  
whilst living for adventure.

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## Cloud-wisp Patterns

Gay Garland Reed

Vancouver, Washington

OCTOBER 2021 | 011-05

This morning I greeted a tie-dye sky  
Clouds were streaks of white  
against a pale indigo backdrop  
as if someone had bunched up the sky  
in the corner of the universe  
and dipped it in pale indigo dye

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## Transition

Stephanie Spencer

Vancouver, Washington

OCTOBER 2021 | 011-06

Wind applauding in trees  
the final curtain for a villainous summer  
after a stale encore of still dry days.  
Geese harkening in clouds  
the sanguine change for a somber audience.  
Move on, they say,  
it's time.

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## Squid Jigging Midnight

Armin Tolentino, Clark County Poet Laureate

Vancouver, Washington

OCTOBER 2021 | 011-07

Like ghosts, gauzy across  
the winter sheen of the sound.  
The jigs glow and dance,  
dazzle with their crown of hooks.  
A séance. Prayer for contact.

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## Catch and Release

Emmett Wheatfall

Portland, Oregon

OCTOBER 2021 | 011-08

For what is left of me be it known to you  
When you fall, I will catch you, then release you  
so that again and again—you will fall for me

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## Shorthand

Christine Lamb White

Vancouver, Washington

OCTOBER 2021 | 011-09

Poem is a short word written by hand  
powered by adding up the story's total sum  
pieces of mystery's clues—waves of raves or rants  
talking to each other by relating rhythmic chants.  
Patchwork quilt of words in pieces,  
comforts like a friend that greets us. Passions burst  
and take their stand, I wonder where this poem will land?

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## Trance

Elizabeth Wood

Vancouver, Washington

brush teeth and shower

absorb the coffee

daily puzzle online

feed the dogs

muscle memory

while my thoughts are

far away

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SEASON

10

October 2020 – October 2021

## The Name for This Season

Tiel Aisha Ansari

Portland, Oregon

OCTOBER 2020 | 010-01

Sunny days after frost. Chinook on their redds  
their flanks crimson as elderberry leaves.

Egg-spent corpses float to the shore.

Gold and scarlet leaves in windblown heaps.

If I had the naming of this mild season

I'd call it in an ancient tongue:

Chinook summer.

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## Love as a Bee Sting

Genevieve DeGuzman

Portland, Oregon

OCTOBER 2020 | 010-02

How can I call myself lucky walking through tall grasses,  
when I've never been stung? Furry butts with lancets  
scooted off petaled pedestals. Why so gentle,  
yellow-striped flying pandas, so shy  
to sting my cheek? Your soft landing closes my throat  
but swells my heart too.

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## Gaining Time

Tanna Engdahl

Vancouver, Washington

OCTOBER 2020 | 010-03

The sun talks through crackling leaves  
when summer heat tolls the day.

We measure time in moon shapes  
losing hours to nonsense  
reclaimed holding a grandchild.

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## Mornings

Hillary M. Marshall

Washougal, Washington

OCTOBER 2020 | 010-04

I crawl from under my shell  
peer out wondering what the world beholds  
When the sun yawns  
yellow, orange, red across the sky  
hazily exposing new wonders  
so far undiscovered

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## Seeker

Madeline Martin

Vancouver, Washington

OCTOBER 2020 | 010-05

She'd find her fingers trailing up the stairs  
and into a silent room  
where eyes would sit upon a speed-dialed computer screen,  
together testing whims of patience and fury  
for the time it took to operate to her speed.  
This taught her to think and contemplate.  
Knowledge arrived on time serenely.

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## Haiku for Grandpa

Dave R. Muñoz

Battle Ground, Washington

OCTOBER 2020 | 010-06

“Gramps, how did you work a sickle all day?”

“Swing right, body—  
swing left, soul...”

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## Doors and Mirrors

Álvaro Tarragó

Portland, Oregon

OCTOBER 2020 | 010-07

One door leads to another  
And another leads to more,  
An infinite number of mirrors  
Fixed against opposite walls.  
I spoke to the prophets and from them I learned:  
Freedom is an illusion  
And we all remain in the cave.

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## Poetry Matters

Anand Tawker

Vancouver, Washington

OCTOBER 2020 | 010-08

Between the ineffable and the eloquent  
In that liminal space, like the time before the dawn  
You exist as a mélange of words and feelings in some inchoate form  
Intimations of lines to come, as word silhouettes become emergent  
Your presence is felt ever more, and you are determined to be born  
Midwifed by emotion, long labor, and nurtured with care  
You become the poem.

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## Half a Sonnet Stepping Into Tomorrow

Armin Tolentino

Vancouver, Washington

OCTOBER 2020 | 010-09

I slept and missed my stop. I froze and missed  
my chance to say I'm sorry. Just today  
I counted out one hundred private ways  
I blew my only life. But as I wished  
for a dozen do-overs, the future  
waved to me outside. A blessing I'd  
done nothing to deserve. Not too late. I'd just arrived—

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## Only You

Emmett Wheatfall

Portland, Oregon

OCTOBER 2020 | 010-10

Only you can nudge the northern lights,  
make sleepy clouds whisper good night.  
Force winter winds to ebb and flow,  
kiss weeping willows in yesterday's glow.  
Only you.  
Only you.

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SEASON

9

January - September 2020



**Soft Serve**

Ian Caton

Vancouver, Washington

JANUARY 2020 | 009-01

Got two kids in the Hyundai  
driving down HWY 99  
to get chocolate dipped soft serve  
listening to Springsteen  
*this is your home town*

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## Earthworm

Lisa Demoreno

Battle Ground, Washington

JANUARY 2020 | 009-02

His lies were like the earthworm,  
Tunneling silently beneath my feet in the loamy subterrain  
Sometimes glimpsed at dawn or after a heavy rain  
A flash of brown tail and rubbery rings  
Stretching quickly back into the secret earth again  
Leaving behind only a thin fluorescent trail  
of shimmering doubt.

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## Saudades

Leigh Hancock

White Salmon, Washington

JANUARY 2020 | 009-03

On the avenue to Gilgamesh  
the elephants are saying their good-byes.  
We were not here yesterday,  
nor the day before.  
Too cold, too cold, the summer snows,  
the boxcars hurrying south.

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## Grasshoppers

Rainy Knight

Vancouver, Washington

JANUARY 2020 | 009-04

Upon opening my door one morning  
a grasshopper, uninvited, hopped in  
I looked up and the ground undulated  
with grasshoppers  
I looked beyond and my large garden  
was in the process of being ravaged  
It was May, the sun shone as I closed the door

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## Recipe

Claudia Castro Luna, Washington State Poet Laureate  
Seattle, WA

JANUARY 2020 | 009-05

Not the paper, not the pen, nor the ink  
but the hand that glides across the page  
stringing words one after the other  
like bright lights on an outdoor garland  
illuminating the feast over an old table laid  
that would otherwise in shadows remain

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## Write Yourself a Love Poem

Toni Lumbrazo Luna

Vancouver, Washington

JANUARY 2020 | 009-06

Tonight  
late in the calendar year  
light a fire, take your  
wool sweater from the closet  
while water boils for tea  
then write yourself a love poem  
to outlast the cold months of winter

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## At the Station

Robin O'Brien

Vancouver, Washington

JANUARY 2020 | 009-07

Tracks demand attention, their lines define the space  
and lead away somewhere.

The trains themselves screech and roar  
and as they charge past, the pigeons reshuffle on the wire.

Those wheels are bearing you away. As my feet meet pavement,  
I walk into the hush that follows the leaving.

The pigeons begin to doze, the day now hollowed out.

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## Life Soup

Jennifer Pratt-Walter

Vancouver, Washington

JANUARY 2020 | 009-08

We are our own daily miracle, linked  
by water's wet abacus that never stops  
its counting. We simmer in  
Life's cauldron, flower and mouse and  
bee and you and even me, all seasoning  
water's broad unspeakable soup.

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## Stopping Time

Stephanie Spencer

Vancouver, Washington

JANUARY 2020 | 009-09

The unexpected joy of

Slowing down to follow a bus

With tiny sleepy faces peering out the back windows,

Allowing me to spy a heron's morning silhouette on the lake

At the bend of the road

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## Old Man

Terry Vetter

Kalama, Washington

JANUARY 2020 | 009-10

Yestertime is a remembery of her  
walking with one hand swallowed in mine  
her free hand thrust forward announcing “Me Two.”  
Today Daddy time is up.  
She marches in a pink hat.  
Me Too?

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SEASON

8

July - December 2019

**Fox**

Layali U.

4th Grade, Sprouting Seeds School

JULY 2019 | 008-01

Fox, softly stepping,  
Your brush of a tail suddenly quivers,  
A flash of orange against the snow.

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## Cats

Nafisa U.

2nd Grade, Sprouting Seeds School

Bold and daring, eyes are stars,  
sleek, smooth body, long, long whiskers.  
Ears that prick with a nick.  
Lazy, maybe grumpy, spunky,  
hilarious, brave and smart.  
Cats are cool, they always are.  
I love cats all the time!

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## Fern

Lyla B.

3rd Grade, Sprouting Seeds School

Fiddle head fern, unfurl, uncurl,  
Lushness, green, down deep, mountain deep,  
Swirling life, thy teachers say,  
A moment now we fly away,  
The secret ivy spindly,  
Deep, the secret hidden,  
Fernly creep.

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## Bus Dogs

Mikaylee F.

9th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

JULY 2019 | 008-04

This is a poem for the dogs on the bus,  
The most loyal of friends to travel with us.  
For the lap dogs, the service dogs,  
the “you’re not allowed on so we’ll pretend you’re a toy” dogs.  
This is a poem for the dogs on the bus.  
Kindly share it with them, because they can’t read.

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## Give Some Kind

Natalie W.

4th Grade, Chinook Elementary

Kindness can be a big hug

Kindness can be giving love

Kindness can be a dream come true

Kindness can have something to do with you

Just have a kind mind

And sparkle and shine

And just give some kind

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## In My Basket

Anna C.

2nd Grade, Southridge Elementary

JULY 2019 | 008-06

A Bunny can be  
Chocolate, Marshmallow, Honey,  
I eat the ears first.

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## Frog's Song

Madeline C.

12th Grade, Camas High

JULY 2019 | 008-07

In the midst of the night  
Hear the frogs singing  
Their soothing, peaceful lullaby  
As it lures me into deep, restful sleep

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## Kindness is a Match

Cass K.

4th Grade, Chinook Elementary

JULY 2019 | 008-08

Kindness is a match.

Light it.

Spread it.

And let it burn like a wildfire.

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## Moose Wearing a Tie

Emmy P.

Kindergarten, Lakeshore Elementary

JULY 2019 | 008-09

Moose wearing a tie,  
He likes eating pancakes in the sky.  
Have you seen him flying by?  
Moose wearing a tie.

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## Honeybee Haiku

Gwendolyn Morgan

Clark County Poet Laureate 2018-2020

JULY 2019 | 008-10

Honeybee, winged light  
there's enough room in my heart  
for joy, gold-leaf combs

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SEASON

7

January - June 2019

**Untitled**

Suzann M. Baldwin

La Center, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-01

Remember all those  
feelings you left twisting in  
the wind?

Here they come again.



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## Old Memories

an'ya Bartolović

Florence, OR

JANUARY 2019 | 007-02

old memories  
like tangled fish hooks  
impossible  
to pick up only one  
without all the others



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## Hole

D.H. Carol

Vancouver, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-03

There was a hole put  
into me so very long ago.

It will never fill with  
me.

No radiant self.

Part of me gone before

I could say no.



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## Wildflowers

Laurie Cutter

Ridgefield, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-04

The quick delicious  
dropping away downhill  
Onrush of honey—  
suckled air, mingled swirl  
of earth and sky, blurred  
leaves, buttercups,  
morning glory



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## I remember

Lauren Duquette

Vancouver, WA

hawk feather smoke  
cedar bough crackle  
heat red brick fireplace  
our home, our shell  
all cheeks ablaze atop  
precious sweated bodies  
smiling and round



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## Soaked

David Hubka

Vancouver, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-06

Circles scatter across curbside puddles

Dancing erratically to

The hidden pattern of the

Percussive falling rain.

Foolishly, we skip from street to curb

As if we can avoid getting wet;

Like we aren't already soaked.



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## Historical disaster

Holly Miller

Vancouver, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-07

If I was with Aaron, I wouldn't feel so lame.

If I was with Elias, I might have a cool last name.

If I dated Ben, my trust issues would be worse.

But if I dated Bryan, I'd probably be in a hearse.



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## Queen Anne's Lace

Gay Garland Reed

Vancouver, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-08

When Queen Anne's Lace,  
in all its delicate grace,  
appears along the roadside  
we know that  
we are sliding  
down the back of summer.



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**Untitled**

Jacob Salzer

Vancouver, WA

JANUARY 2019 | 007-09

empty theater...  
the weight of trash



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**note to the letter carrier**

Mark Sargent

Agia Eirini, Sparti, Greece

JANUARY 2019 | 007-10

If the intended  
is absent  
or dead  
please,  
forward to the void.



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## Untitled

Melissa Clarke Ward

Sisters, OR

JANUARY 2019 | 007-11

my uphill shadow  
soft and composed  
the edge, radiant



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SEASON

6

July - December 2018

## Ode to Summer

Annie S. — 3rd Grade, Eisenhower Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

Summer, I love you.

Touching the tulips that glow  
as the river gently flows.

Looking at the ocean as the waves crash  
as the sun comes out

all the people play and shout.

Summer, I love you!



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## How the Phoenix Flies

Christina S. — 12th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

Poets in the Schools Program

Sometimes we forget that  
the fire will not again burn  
and kindling refuses flame  
'Til the eyes dry their tears  
and the hands steady their course so again  
Hope may blaze from phoenix wings.



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## Strangers

Christina S. — 12th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

Poets in the Schools Program

JULY 2018 | 006-03

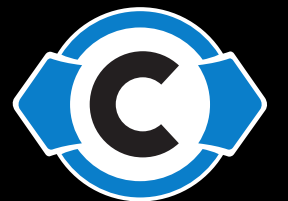
When our televisions scream, wailing grief  
and the papers bleed tragedy from ever' leaf,  
When hope has seemed to run her course  
and our very touch it seems does shame endorse,  
It is the strangers, human neighbors  
Who in kindness of random labors  
That remind us that we are worth it.

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## Across the River

Ella J. — 4th Grade, Hough Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

JULY 2018 | 006-04

Feeling weary, afraid to jump

Crossing the river

gathering courage

to take flight.

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## To be a Book in 2068

Grace W. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

JULY 2018 | 006-05

I hold many pages of wonders and stories,  
Perhaps that is why I used to get so much glory.

But now I sit here on this dusty old shelf,  
and I have tried but I just can't open myself.

Oh, if only they knew all the things I could do,  
They would get off their phones and come down here too.



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## The Butterfly that Stands Out

Hanna P. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

Hi, hi butterfly

You love to sing and dance, oh my!

You may not always like the song  
but you always try and dance along.

I love that you like to try new things  
As you glide around with your colorful wings.



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## Land of Magic

Lillianna K. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

JULY 2018 | 006-07

This is a place where no worries come out during the day  
Where you can run around and just play  
No parents to wave you hello or goodbye  
No homework or books just the beautiful stars  
in the black night sky  
Here you have no bedtime at all  
Here in this land of magic you will no longer be afraid to fall.



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## The Beach

Margaret H. — 4th Grade, Hearthwood Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

To the west, to the beach  
Soft sand covers my feet  
Like a blanket, warm and relaxed  
Wind whistling, salt water crashing  
on the sand  
Seagulls sing  
Like a choir.



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## Spaceships

Noah S. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

JULY 2018 | 006-09

Discovery

Helpful Fearless

Soaring Flying Falling

“One small step for man, one large step for mankind.”

Blasting Shaking Flying

Large Important

Apollo



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## Snowy Mountains

Nyomi S. — 4th Grade, Hough Elementary

Poets in the Schools Program

High and low  
the mountains go  
there up top  
with white blank snow  
When you look below  
there's not a home  
where you will feel  
all alone.



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SEASON

5

January - June 2018

## Reflections

April Bullard

Vancouver, WA

A bright reflection of my face  
shimmers on the window like a ghost,  
flickering a million emotions  
in disconnected frames of a living movie.  
What does that spectral image expose?  
What face do I show the world?

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## **Elevate the Floor**

Diane Cammer

Vancouver, WA

When our glass dreams range impossibly high  
we brush aside bruised clouds with open palms  
turn to our toes to lift us up  
fill our lungs with tempest air  
and everyone will watch us rise.

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**One Heart's Desire** (an excerpt)

Denise L. Campbell

Vancouver, WA

whatever song  
had fluttered there  
within the confine of my ribs  
still sings deep among the briar,  
the only bed  
that's fated for the gentle rose.

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## **In A Pow Wow**

Stella Jeng Guillory

Vancouver, WA

I am the drum.

A dozen drummers sit surrounding me.

They sing and howl, like coyotes.

I am the circle. The circle of dancers is forming.

Its tail curls up to its beginning.

Two dancers embrace each other.

The circle of loving continues.

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## At Home

Jennifer Pratt-Walter

Vancouver, WA

Here the mossless stone  
has settled.

Here where peace unstirs a restless mind,  
your primal home is waiting,  
door open.

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## Time

Pat Sciuchetti

Vancouver, WA

Scoop it up in your fist.

Squeeze it through your fingers.

Rip it. Shred it. Grate it on a cheese grater.

Breathe it. Taste it. Slurp its tangy juice.

Stare it in the eye.

Swirl in its fierce current.

Wring it dry!

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## Daybreak

Gary F. Suda

Battle Ground, WA

The lift of morning,  
caught between  
dense fog of coffee's kiss  
and first light.

The hydrangea lumbers up  
the red brick wall.

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## **Bus Stop**

Susan Williams

Vancouver, WA

Find a seat and sit a spell.

Close your eyes,

take a breath,

smile a smile.

Feel the motion as you move

to the next stop in your life.

Open your eyes.

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## **In-Between**

Angela Winfield

Vancouver, WA

It's in the grey spaces  
Between the yin and yang  
Where fresh waters meet the sea  
Brackish and sweet  
The sonnets we sing

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## Who Rides?

Louise Wynn

Camas, WA

You never know who you'll see on this bus.  
Not Shakespeare, for sure. But what if  
you did see him? Here's what I'd do:  
I'd ask for a rhyme,  
we'd rap, double time,  
then I'd say, "Thanks a lot, Bro,  
I flunked English because of you."

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SEASON

4

July - December 2017



## North Carolina

James B. — 4th Grade, Hearthwood Elementary School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

### In North Carolina

I see different types of birds, trees, and flowers.

I see different types of rocks.

North Carolina has buzzing bees and birds,  
flowering dogwood, southern pine and  
my Grandma and Grandpa, still watching.

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## Arizona

Gavin B. — 4th Grade, Hearthwood Elementary School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Red rocks dancing

in dust devils.

Red Robins riding rain drops.

Wrecked nests dropping down

on dying red roses.

Running runners working hard.

The red Phoenix red hot.

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## Picture of Your Heart

Brooklyn C. — 2nd Grade, Hough Elementary School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Picture of your heart.

Outrageously cool.

Everything is awesome!

Makes everything better.

Special for everyone.

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**If**

Ellie G. — 8th Grade, Amboy Middle School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

If you ever got the chance  
to see yourself through someone  
else's eyes, you'd be surprised at  
how extraordinary you really  
are.

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## The Way Earth Is

Allison K. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Planet is turning,  
hued places circumvolving,  
revolving the sun.

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## **Lady of the Sea**

Kaylee K. — 5th Grade, Union Ridge Elementary School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Laying in the sea  
where she's longed to be.  
Tiny sailboat  
afloat in the water.  
Lime green grass  
after a morning's splash.  
Lady of the sea.

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## **My Loving Prince**

Berenice L. — 6th Grade, Discovery Middle School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

His warm, friendly smile welcomes me.  
It welcomes me like the way the night  
welcomes the moon and stars.  
His sweet light blue eyes sparkle,  
they sparkle like the ocean surface.  
I love him for the type of person he is  
and for his personality.

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## The Right Way

Jacob R. — 8th Grade, Amboy Middle School

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Look forward, up  
never look down and back  
the right way is the hard way, but  
the wrong way is the easy way.

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## Book

Johanny S. — 6th Grade, Discovery Middle School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Closed, lonely.

Just sitting there waiting to be opened again  
like dead grass waiting for someone to play  
or a flower slowly dying.

It reminds me of a lonely old man,  
no grandchildren, no kids, alone  
wishing its pages were flipped again.

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## **We'll Remember These Days**

Christina S. — 11th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

We'll remember these days  
Poised taut on the precipice of adventure  
With the rain polishing our way  
The future crooning beyond the next swooping gorge  
For who can forget the home which taught us  
The sun doesn't need to be shining  
For a day to be ours for the taking?

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SEASON

3

January - June 2017

**from With Apologies to Andre Breton**

Tod Marshall, Washington State Poet Laureate

Spokane, WA

Line up to the left if you believe in magic.

Line up to the right if you're here for wisdom.

Line up in the middle if you live driven by the feeling that  
you've just fallen in love.

Go to the back of the line if you've never fallen in love.

Go to the front of the line if you believe love can save the world.

Go home if you think this is getting sappy.

Go to sleep if you're tired; it's okay. Here's a pillow; it's called a poem.

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**pavement pastoral**

Christopher Luna, Clark County Poet Laureate

Vancouver, WA

there is a determined melancholy  
to the suicide dive of  
autumn leaves  
as they tear themselves  
from the limbs of trembling trees  
to spiral earthward like eels  
caught in zoetrope flicker

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## Hope, embossed

Gwendolyn Morgan

Vancouver, WA

Each one of us has an owl, sparrow, crow,  
an ordinary bird that follows us around our home.  
Kali, Ganesh, and a host of gods and goddesses,  
step over the hearth. We pick up maple seed pods,  
hope embossed in several languages,  
yellow swallowtail, butterfly wings  
ten thousand things.

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## A Long Ago Memory of Calmer Times

Bruce D. Hall

Vancouver, WA

Lightning flash, flash, and another flash  
walls shake, china rattles, chest vibrates  
in rhythm with kettledrum thunder  
wind howls, fire crackles, kettle bubbles  
buttery bread sizzles in skillet  
we savor our meal by fireglow  
listening to the music of the storm.

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## Calling

Jennifer Pratt-Walter

Vancouver, WA

The Earth is calling,  
even if you don't listen.

Get lost in Nature,  
and you will find  
yourself.

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## Camilla

Alex Vigue

Ridgefield, WA

She lets her son dress up in leftover pastels  
does not scorn him when he twirls in a dress  
only laughs and notes the skirt's shape as it swirls  
an opening flower, the pink of a cheek  
her own and his  
her father taught her how to garden  
so that she may cultivate a rare child

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## Joy

Cherish DesRochers-Vafeados

Battle Ground, WA

The dawn has gone, the sun has risen  
I'm finally free of my temporary prison

my heart's at ease  
my mind is still and  
joy is real

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## Just Breathe

Bridget Nutting

Vancouver, WA

Breathe in, deeply – exhale, slowly.

May the eternal spirit of all that was,  
all that is, and all that will ever be

Surround you and caress you with His healing touch,  
Bringing you unending comfort and peace.

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## Subsequent Layers of Existence

Bill Lucking

Vancouver, WA

We exist in a present that is fleetingly fast  
swiftly moving our now towards a vanishing past.  
Too soon our new-present too swiftly arrives,  
replacing the place where our present-now lies.  
Subsequent presents come sliding on in  
and are quickly supplanted, again and again.

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***from how to love***

Desiree Wright

Battle Ground, WA

she's just a woman  
like me  
making her way in a world  
not meant for her  
to make it in

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***from Why We Don't Belong Here***

Livia Montana

Vancouver, WA

All day it was raining and you told me,  
“That’s just how it is in some parts of the world.”  
I prayed then, we wouldn’t stay  
on this planet for long.  
You’ll think me particular, but you can’t blame  
me for desiring the dark of space, or how we’ve learned  
to make comets come to heel in our wake.

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## **Eulogies Are for the Living**

Angeline Nguyen

Vancouver, WA

Do not wait  
until the flower wilts  
to praise the gift of its aroma.

Celebrate  
the buddings and bloomings  
before Winter extends its pale hand.

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SEASON

2

July - December 2016



## **A Candle, A Light Bulb, A Glowing Fire**

Colwyn B. — 9th Grade, Fort Vancouver High School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Midnight black hair. Glowing, smiling, sending  
love wherever she goes. Eyes as wide and blue  
and deep as the ocean she lives across. Beautiful  
in mind, body, and spirit, wholly innocent as the  
sun. And she is mine, and I am hers.

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## Still I Rise

Elora H. — 6th Grade, Discovery Middle School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Someday I will grow the rest of the way up

I will do anything I set my mind to

I will do anything people with full sight do

But I do have full sight

I see the world differently

No one can stop me

Still I rise



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## Don't Be Afraid

Ashley S. — 10th Grade, Fort Vancouver High School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Don't be afraid of love  
love will find you when you're ready  
love will find you when you learn to love yourself

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## From the Airplane

Jaden L. — 7th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Blinking lights, midnight silhouette, wire of a river,

Tiny headlights of automobiles commuting.

My circuit board of a city at night

bears infinite intrigue.

I, spectator, sit transfixed.

Never has a simple town

been so significant to me.

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## Ego Poem

Andrew H. — 9th Grade, Fort Vancouver High School

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My eyes are the ocean

My breath carries the wind

My palm holds the word

My essence is the light

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## Space

Marley J. — 4th Grade, Hearthwood Elementary

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I am sitting on  
a star inside the milky way  
looking at the planets  
looking at them from far away  
they are very fascinating

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## **Slowly Sinking**

Rheanna N. — 9th Grade, Fort Vancouver High School

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Fear is quicksand  
it holds you captive,  
threatens to drag you down.

If you hold on to other people  
you can pull yourself out.

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## **Stoney Surprise**

Emma L. — 10th Grade, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

Hermit crabs in minuscule shells

snails leave slime trails

slick on the ragged stone.

Anemones wave hellos before returning to their dinner party.

The barrel chest bear says it's time to leave.

The small hands wave goodbye to new friends,

and the tiny feet walk happily away.

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## **Snow**

Breanna K. — 3rd Grade, Riverview Elementary

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna's Poets in the Schools Program

We are freezing cold and are very icy and light.

We make you feel way beyond jubilant.

We are millions of tiny balls of frozen rain with a white coat.

We cover the ground with a humongous white blanket.

We sound like a peaceful warning.

We are snow.

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## Love

Jessica K. — 9th Grade, Fort Vancouver High School

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I am my father's gentle goodnight kiss.

I am the aroma of pancakes with coffee in the morning.

I am the laughter of my childhood.

I am the sparkling stars in my father's loving eyes.

I am love.

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SEASON

1

January - June 2016

**Excerpt from “Extern”**

Neil Aitken

Vancouver, WA

Sometimes I dream of the ghost of a bird  
its eyes dark like mine  
asleep in the fold of a tree  
its shadow the shape of a harp.

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## **Everything Settles**

Tiffany Burba-Schramm

Vancouver, WA

The frost settles upon the ground.

Snow settles upon the limbs of trees.

The ceiling in my house settles; creates small cracks.

The floor creaks and settles the weight of dogs approaching.

We settle, let the weight of the world crack our ambitions.

We let others' harsh words and criticisms drape us  
like settled winter fog.

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## **We could fly**

Diane M. Cammer

Vancouver, WA

yet we stand, feet bound to ground  
arms spread wide, wings in  
another world, another time  
waiting for wind, an updraft  
when all that's required  
is a single bold step into the unknown.

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## **Pilgrimage, 1988**

Sherri H. Hoffman

Vancouver, WA

Start at Dodger Stadium, Chavez Ravine, most perfect field. Onward to Candlestick, Wrigley, Three Rivers, Shea. Until Cooperstown, Holiest of Holies. Blessed with field grit rubbed into our salted skins, we'd say the sacred names. Koufax. Drysdale. Marichal. Campanella from the Brooklyn years. Jackie Robinson, born the same day as our Grandma Wildish. And Pee Wee Reese, who kept the faith, refusing to sign the petition to ban Robinson for being black. The game transcendent.

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**Excerpt from “Ours”**

Erin Iwata

Ridgefield, WA

I have to believe that something of seventeen still lingers  
though she pains me with her adolescent optimism  
I return, hoping she wasn't wrong  
that there is beauty in the stacked stones along the path  
that there is a path indeed  
mountains to be scaled and conquered  
that the world is still ours

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**Counterpart**

Tim Klein

Vancouver, WA

At this very moment  
someone  
somewhere  
is doing  
the very same thing you are doing  
for the very same reason.

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**From *Ghost Town, USA***

Clark County Poet Laureate Christopher Luna

Vancouver, WA

the dirt beneath  
Bonita's fingernails  
did not discourage him  
she was reading a bilingual edition  
of Dante's *Inferno*  
on the 37  
and that was more than enough

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## Honeycomb Prophecy

Toni Partington

Vancouver, WA

In the residence of your heart  
I wish to be a cubicle made of beeswax  
translucent, unfiltered, bright with buzz.

Together we will construct a confluence  
of resin and lace; a suspension bridge  
across hedge thorns and conflict.

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## **Journey**

Jennifer Pratt-Walter

Vancouver, WA

We are the tide's twin, swimming  
with the faithful senses of salmon—  
we smell fresh river  
from out of the salt, we are  
drawn home under moon-watch  
for as long as the journey takes.

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**Fourth Plain Boulevard**

Karen Read

Vancouver, WA

A home for hundreds walking—yet to name  
the dreams that rise before they dare to speak.

Colorful signs that fly above—untamed  
wave low and high, press forward, reach, and peak.

So often you find only what you seek.

Your power lines of old are not here sown.

They surge beneath this skin of place unknown.

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