

Place Poems

Who Goes with Fergus?

Who will go drive with Fergus now,
And pierce the deep wood's woven shade,
And dance upon the level shore?
Young man, lift up your russet brow
And lift your tender eyelids, maid,
And brood on hopes and fear no more.

And no more turn aside and brood
Upon love's bitter mystery;
For Fergus rules the brazen cars,
And rules the shadows of the wood,
And the white breast of the dim sea
And all disheveled wandering stars.

by William Butler Yeats

Sonnet

Guido, I wish that you and Lapo and I
Were carried off by magic
And put in a boat, which, every time there was wind,
would sail on the ocean exactly where we wanted.

In this way storms and other dangerous weather
Wouldn't be able to harm us--
And I wish that, since we all were of one mind,
We'd go on wanting more and more to be together.

And I wish that Vanna and Lagia too
And the girl whose name on the list is number thirty
Were put in the boat by the magician too

And that we all did nothing but talk about love
And wish that they were just as glad to be there
As I believe the three of us would be.

by Dante Alighieri
translated by Kenneth Koch

Poem Idea #1 - Imagine you are the ruler of a beautiful magical country, where everyone can be happy forever. Write a poem in which you ask people who seem sad to come and live there where they won't have to worry anymore. You have a magic car or plane or boat to take them there with you. You can tell them in what ways they will be happier. If you like, you can make up a name for yourself, such as Fergus or Angus or the The Sun King or the Snow Queen or King Harold or use your own name.

Poem Idea #2 - What if you could have a magic boat (or car or roller coaster or rocket ship or plane) and could go anywhere you wanted in it and everything would be perfect? You could have any friends go with you that you wanted. And there would be no work to do and nobody ever to bother you: You could just sail or fly or ride about for as long as you wished, spending every minute with the friends you like best. You could be really close to them and talk about everything and have a good time.

Write a poem like Dante's, inviting your best friend, or saying you wish you could invite him or her, to come with you on such a journey. Say what the boat or rocket ship or whatever is like, and say what you could do and who else you would like to come along.

Trees in the Garden

Ah in the thunder air
how still the trees are!
And the lime tree, lovely and tall, every leaf silent
hardly loses even a last breath of perfume.

And the ghostly, creamy colored little tree of leaves
white, ivory white among the rambling greens,
how evanescent, variegated elder, she hesitates on
the green grass
as if, in another moment, she would disappear
with all her grace of foam!

And the larch that is only a column, it goes up
too tall to see:
and the balsam pines that are blue with the sea,
and the young copper beech, its leaves red-rosy
at the ends,

how still they are together, they stand so still
in the thunder air, all strangers to one another
as the green grass glows upwards,
a stranger in the silent garden.

by D.H. Lawrence

Poem Idea #3 - Have you ever seen trees or
flowers or animals or birds or people being
absolutely still? Write about a scene in which
everything is absolutely unmoving and quiet. If you
like, you can put a description of one absolutely still
thing in each line.