

Anne Miller
Syford Poetry Contest, Special Merit

If I Were a Poet

If I were a poet I would fill the page with a quart
of words like expatiate, pituitary, and comport.

I would pack the lines with tacky internal rhyme:
'They build forts by the seaports.'

I would include clichés such as
'A day late and a dollar short' and 'Be a good sport.'

I would load the lines with amazing alliteration:
'Casey crosses the court.'

I would personify Courage, Hope, and Fear
as a Knight, a Queen, and an old man in a fort.



If I were a poet I would wander
through gardens like William Wordsworth to ponder.

I would write from my identity crises
like Julia Alvarez, wishing I was blonder.

I would ensure that I lived alone
like Emily Dickenson, until I became fonder

of someone much younger than me
like John Donne and squander

my fortune. Or perhaps I would just write until I smiled--
If I were a poet.