



RESSURSARK – LYTTEMATERIELL - ENGELSK

Tittel: Poetry Today (2008) – Vg3 Engelskspråklig litteratur og kultur

Kort beskrivelse:

Lindis, Richard and John are talking about poetry. First Richard reads a quote by an American poet on the state of poetry today. After they have talked about the position of poetry in modern society, Lindis reads a poem by the American poet Billy Collins. Finally they talk about this poem and other aspects of studying poetry.

The quotation:

American poetry now belongs to a subculture. No longer part of the mainstream of artistic and intellectual life, it has become the specialized occupation of a relatively small and isolated group. Little of the frenetic activity it generates ever reaches outside that closed group. As a class poets are not without cultural status. Like priests in a town of agnostics, they still command a certain residual prestige. But as individual artists they are almost invisible.

Dana Gioia

<http://www.danaGioia.net/essays/ecpm.htm>.

Originally published in [The Atlantic Monthly](#), May 1991

Forgetfulness

The name of the author is the first to go followed obediently by the title, the plot, the heartbreaking conclusion, the entire novel which suddenly becomes one you have never read, never even heard of,

as if, one by one, the memories you used to harbor decided to retire to the southern hemisphere of the brain, to a little fishing village where there are no phones.

Long ago you kissed the names of the nine Muses goodbye and watched the quadratic equation pack its bag, and even now as you memorize the order of the planets,

something else is slipping away, a state flower perhaps, the address of an uncle, the capital of Paraguay.

Whatever it is you are struggling to remember, it is not poised on the tip of your tongue, not even lurking in some obscure corner of your spleen.

It has floated away down a dark mythological river whose name begins with an L as far as you can recall, well on your own way to oblivion where you will join those who have even forgotten how to swim and how to ride a bicycle.



No wonder you rise in the middle of the night
to look up the date of a famous battle in a book on war.
No wonder the moon in the window seems to have drifted out of a
love poem that you used to know by heart.

Billy Collins

Explanation:

In Greek mythology, the Lethe is one of the rivers that flow through the realm of Hades. When souls drank its water they were supposed to forget their life on earth, so the river Lethe symbolizes forgetfulness.

Oppgaver refleksjon /diskusjon/samtale:

1. According to what you have been listening to, is poetry as a genre alive today?
2. What actually constitutes a poem: Do you consider song lyrics in rap and hip hop to be good examples of poetry? State your reasons.
3. What is your personal response to the poem by Billy Collins?
4. What do you think about being force-fed poetry?
5. Comment on a poem you have read in your course that has especially touched you.

Kompetansemål Vg3 Engelskspråklig litteratur og kultur:

Kommunikasjon

- bruke et rikt, nyansert og presist ordforråd til å kommunisere om litteratur og kultur
- oppsummere, kommentere og diskutere ulike synspunkter i skjønnlitterære tekster

Kultur, samfunn og litteratur

- tolke et representativt utvalg av tekster frå litteraturhistoriske epoker i den engelskspråklige litteraturen, frå renessansen og fram til vår tid