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Poems

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Poems by C. Glennon Rowell

The Joys of Books

Books take us away to enchanted lands—
To places beyond the sea.
To castles on mountains far away—
To lands of mystery.

Books take us back to the long ago—
To tales of kings and queens.
To warriors wearing shining armor—
Who conquered enemies mean.

Books tell us about tomorrows to come—
To glorious new worlds ahead.
About unheard of, unthinkable ideas—
Imagination waiting to be read.

Books tell us about endearing romances—
Great loves that'll forever last.
And about lost loves and grief therein,
In the present and in the past.

Books are to be read and read and read—
Their values can never be told.
Their joys will forever be with us—
Their pleasures will forever unfold.
Spelling Woes

Teacher, why doesn’t s-e-d spell said?
When b-e-d spells bed and r-e-d spells red?

And then there’s fed, and wed, and led—
And T-e-d for my cousin Ted.

And why doesn’t w-e-a-r-d spell weird—
Since b-e-a-r-d spells beard?

And why doesn’t c-o-f-f spell cough—
It clearly always ends in off?

And why doesn’t p-a-d-e spell paid—
When m-a-d-e spells made and f-a-d-e is fade?

Teacher, trying to spell is simply crazy—
With rules that are fuzzy and logic that’s hazy.
Usage Woes

In writing—I oft' wonder what to say:
Should I use *can* or should I use *may*?

Should I use *whom* or is it *who*?
A simple quandary—what should I do?

More trouble comes with *which* and *that*.
They're not as easy as *sit* and *sat*.

With *lie* and *lay*—I scratch my head.
A wrong choice here—my face turns red.

But oh those problems with *sit* and *set*!
On which one to use—I'd never bet.

Is it a *book* or the *book*—what do you think?
Some choices in usage make my heart sink.

In classes we've learned word usage and why—
But for words cited above—Which rules apply?

So here's hoping I've made the right selections—
Helping eliminate those red-inked corrections.

*C. Glennon Rowell is a faculty at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.*