

NOTES ABOUT POEMS

“Back Cover Copy”

Created from collaging bits and pieces of back cover copy from many poetry collections. Pfaffenbichler is pronounced FAA FINN BICK LURR.

“A Dirigible Inspector Attends His First Poetry Workshop”

The Churchill quote in the second stanza is from a speech about the Battle of Egypt, given November 10, 1942.

“Dust”

Andrew Wiles solved Fermat’s Last Theorem in 1993.

High speed cameras helped solve the age-old question of how bumble bees can hover, one of the scientific mysteries that has been around for awhile.

“Exhibit”

Item 7 refers to dead horseshoe crabs, which echoes an image described in the poem “WCW” by A. R. Ammons. The “new theory” in item 2 was proposed by paleontologist Dr. Phil Currie, from the Royal Tyrell Museum, Alberta, Canada, in November, 2000.

“Falling”

Geosynchronous: An orbit around the Earth that keeps an object (an artificial satellite) above the same point on the Earth’s surface. Also referred to as “geostationary.”

“Food Chain”

An ornithopter is a machine that attains flight by using flapping wings. Leonardo Da Vinci sketched these. The novel *Dune* by Frank Herbert uses these.

“The Grey Men and the Secrets of the Afterlife”

This poem was created from words in an Art Bar bookmark. The Art Bar Poetry Series (artbar.org) is a poetry-only reading series that has been running weekly in Toronto, ON since 1991. Their bookmarks list the upcoming features, and short biographical notes.

“Hotline”

- (1) “Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night.” Dylan Thomas
- (2) “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock.” T. S. Eliot
- (3) “High Flight.” John Gillespie Magee
- (4) “Howl.” Allen Ginsberg
- (5) “Sailing to Byzantium.” William Butler Yeats
- (6) “Lady Lazarus.” Sylvia Plath

“My Latest Poem”

There is a reference in the 5th stanza to John Stiles, a Canadian poet and novelist who was born and raised in the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia.

There is a reference in the 19th stanza: “unless it conflicts with rule 1” that echoes the 3 laws of robotics created by Isaac Asimov.

“River of Words”

This was written while listening to John Ashbery’s *Flowchart: a Poem*.