

PEDANTIC POETRY (2011)

By completing the steps below, you will arrive at an original poetic composition.

1. Select four words at random from a dictionary.
2. Construct a meaningful unit (at least a complete, grammatically correct sentence) that unites the four words into a (common) sensical statement or narrative. Strive for brevity and put any concerns for the beauty of the text out of mind.
3. Arrange the text so that each randomly selected word begins a new line of text, resulting in four or five lines of text.
4. Employ at least two of the following processes, applied in any order:
 - Replace all possessive nouns with adjectives (random or chosen)
 - Rotate the verbs (in either direction)
 - Erase all proper nouns
 - Rotate prepositions (in either direction)
 - Replace selected adverbs with nouns
 - Move selected adjectives so that they immediately follow the nouns they modify
 - Shuffle the order of the lines
5. Write a new text, of an explanatory nature, offering an interpretation of the text resulting from step 4.
6. Select (at random or otherwise) four words from the text resulting from step 5.
7. Find the final definition listed for each of the words selected in step 6. Select a synonym or near synonym for each of the words (selected in step 6) based upon these definitions.
8. Perform the operations detailed in steps 2 - 4 on the words resulting from step 7.
9. Perform the operations detailed in steps 5 - 7 on the text resulting from step 8.
10. Perform the operations detailed in steps 2 - 4 on the words resulting from step 9.
11. Perform the operations detailed in steps 5 - 7 on the text resulting from step 10.
12. Perform the operations detailed in steps 2 - 4 on the words resulting from step 11.
13. Arrange the texts resulting from steps 4, 8, 10, and 12 in that order, as stanzas of a poem.
14. Write text to be inserted into the interstices between stanzas of step 13 (text may also precede the first stanza) and serving to connect the combined texts as a narrative, symbolic, impressionistic, or descriptive whole. Do not be overly concerned with stylistic unity. Attempt brevity, as in step 2.
15. Subject each interstitial text resulting from step 14 to some number (including zero) of processes described in step 4, leaving the stanzas of step 13 in tact. The interstitial texts may be construed as "lines" in and of themselves (regardless of the number of actual lines they occupy on the page) in the performance of these operations.
16. (Optional) Provide a name for the text, now a completed poem, resulting from step 15.

-Douglas C. Wadle