

PAREF SOUTHRIDGE SCHOOL
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
WORKLOAD FOR JUNIORS
AFTERNOON SCHOOL
For the Period June 26 to July 1, 2009

Lyric 17 by Jose Garcia Villa

Jose Garcia Villa was born in Manila, Philippines. He came to the United States in 1930 and has resided here ever since. Villa has established an international reputation as a short story writer and as a poet, and was awarded the National Artist Award for Literature by the Philippine government. His first book of poems, *Have Come, Am Here* (1942), was hailed by American critics such as Marianne Moore and Mark Van Doren. This book received the poetry award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Lyric 17 is an excellent example of the use of the metaphor to create a better understanding of poetry. As you read "Lyric 17" think about the way this poem describes how a lyrical poem should be written.

Lyric 17

First, a poem must be magical,
Then musical as a sea-gull.
It must be a brightness moving
And hold secret a bird's flowering.
It must be slender as a bell,
And it must hold fire as well.
It must have the wisdom of bows
And it must kneel like a rose.
It must be able to hear
The luminance of dove and deer.
It must be able to hide
What it seeks, like a bride.
And over all I would like to hover
God, smiling from the poem's cover.

Answer the following on size 1.

1. What could the following statements want to say about poetry?
 - a. ...it must hold fire...:
 - b. ...it must have the wisdom of bows...
 - c. ...it must kneel like a rose...
 - d. ...to hear the luminance of dove and deer.
 - e. ...to hide what it seeks
2. Write down seven sentences that explain what Villa's definition of a good poem is.
3. Create your own definition of poetry. (You may agree or disagree with Villa's view.)
Write your definition in at least 3 sentences.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

In preparation for the mid-quarter production of a play adaptation of the short story *Uncle Podger Hangs a Picture*, assigned students should start writing their scripts (pre-approval of scripts no longer required). The assistant directors may start assigning roles to the actors. Technical directors should start researching on possible choices of music for the play. Production designers can start gathering materials (props and costumes) that may be used, as well as designing the set for the plays. The directors should make sure that their group mates do their assigned tasks. Initial screenings and minor revisions on the script, if necessary, will be done as soon as classes resume.