

THE OFFICIAL ZINE OF THE BOSTON POETRY SLAM AT THE CANTAB LOUNGE, FEATURING CONTENT BY OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS. OUR WEEKLY SHOW HAPPENS EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT, STARTING AT 8 PM.

photographer: Jarvis Subia

## Wednesday Memorabilia

### Some Recent Open Mic Highlights!

"I can't stop rehearsing how to communicate things that I will later not even say"  
- *March Penn*

"I edge my essence into an engulfing fire, and it is always ignited and raging"  
- *Mary Schwabenland*

"I am just a human who eats too much joy"  
- *Siraj Ali*

"How much talent it takes to be blissful for just a moment"  
- *Amy Argentar*

"I dream I am a moon covered in light switches begging someone to turn them on"  
- *Shivank*

"I've been fired from the scarecrow guild for choreographing dances"  
- *Cameron Vanderwerf*

"Self-portrait as the cat who was accidentally shipped in a return to Amazon"  
- *Sue Savoy's poem*

"I have lost years of my life in front of the Market Basket soup case but losing implies there was nothing to be found and that just can't be true"  
- *Aparna Paul*

"DO NOT TEST ME OR I WILL  
MAKE ROMANCE FROM THE LAST  
SURVIVING SUNBEAM IN A CIS MAN'S  
ISOLATED BEDROOM"  
- *Kai Wallin*

"It's ok to not want to cleave the day cleanly in half, to take the cleaner portion, inspect it, clean, clean of you. It's ok to keep it together."  
- *Kat Gunther*

## Writing Prompt

Sam Cha  
samcha.info

This is based on the Spanish *Pregunta* poetic form, but is heavily modified.

### 1. Freewrite for 15 minutes.

#### Three constraints:

- A) Every sentence you write must be a question
- B) Each question should contain at least one concrete physical image
- C) Each new question should connect to the previous question. Not necessarily directly in terms of what it asks, or continuing the thought. But connected by image, by association.

For example, if your first question was:

*That brassy scratch on the lid of my Zippo, how long has it been there?*

Your second question might be:

*When did the scar on my leg fade to a small silver knot?*

Your third question might be:

*When do the last white apple blossoms fall?*

Your fourth and fifth questions might be:

*When a bird dies, who picks up the filigree of bone, the bloody knot of muscle, who holds the windtangled feather in their hands, blows on it to send it flying like a dandelion seed? What is the wish that rasps against their lips?*

### 2. Create a document that has two columns.

Copy and paste your questions into one column. Take this time to read them over again, and change what you think needs changing. Err on the side of concision. ~~If you can use fewer words, do so.~~ Use fewer words. Delete unnecessary questions. (5 minutes)

3. Now, in the second column, write answers for each question. The answers can be longer than the questions. Make sure each answer echoes the initial image from the question—but not "echoes" as in "repeats": the image must change somehow. (20 minutes)

## New Shit / Fresh Vegetables / Gorgeous Garlic

## Poems From Open Mic Regulars

### Bird Guy Maya Detwiller

We match and  
 You tell me you like sea gulls and Ursula K Le Guin  
 And I tell you we have to meet and  
 You are leaving the next morning  
 So I say we have to meet tonight  
 The morning you leave Boston for the first time  
 You point at a gull  
 Full size, cookies and cream brown speckled thing  
 Tilting over the Charles  
 And say he is 3 months old  
 And I think you are maybe god  
 You were on your way home from  
 A slip of an Atlantic island  
 With cabins named things like the Rat Shack and Fog Heaven,  
 and poems taped to the walls of the outhouses  
 It is your favorite place on earth  
 The next summer, we talk on the phone when you have service  
 I hear your voice and 3000 gulls screaming behind it  
 They are loud, hungry, and living  
 And you adore them for it  
 You saw two asleep in the sun  
 One woke to preen the other who  
 startled awake until she realized who it was  
 And tucked her head  
 And slept

The theory of breathing automata finds no home in you  
 Who could see their love fly 600 km away and not harbor the  
 promise of a return  
 When I meet you there in the small forests  
 You reach into burrows in the ground  
 Your arm disappears all the way  
 and comes back with the third half of your heart  
 "Smell it," you say  
 And I laugh  
 "No really there's nothing like it"  
 If there was anything like it, it'd be like black pepper plus  
 warm earth plus moss  
 Two weeks after we meet, you drive six hours to help me move  
 Two days after we meet, I buy three different train tickets  
 home and miss them all  
 This poem makes me want to do some kind of stupid math  
 A number, a logic, a degree of none of our business  
 Because Amtrak has \$15 fares now  
 Because I don't know, because I like to be by you when we're  
 typing, because somehow distance can  
 conspire with us  
 Because "of course"  
 Because nothing but "of course"  
 Your dumb dating nickname only sticks for a month

You are only in Boston for one night and then we lose count  
 It is your first Tinder date  
 It is my 300th  
 Your record player's broke  
 I work at a record player factory  
 You like my perfume  
 I like your armpits  
 This is silly  
 Let me tell it again  
 One more time  
 From the beginning

*if i hesitate to announce your presence as a poet*  
 (After Miguel Algarin's 'David Dickinson')  
 Kat Anderson [insta: @blue\_razzzz]

it is because i want to savor your name on my tongue  
 in this moment i can't call you just a poet  
 you are stitching wounds up with your words  
 healing this whole room  
 with the pause between your title  
 and your first line  
 we are sharing all the same breath here  
 i am gasping desperately  
 knowing that this is the moment that keeps me alive  
 lingers in my newly overflowing heart  
 when i float up those stairs  
 high on the magic you shared...

if i hesitate  
 to announce your presence  
 as a poet  
 it is because to simply announce you is never enough

### Fishbone Finn Flood [insta: @datfinnguy]

Wordless, my story found another way.  
 Finely etched of wretched sunshine  
 in a stonecarver's sanctuary.

In callous sanctimony,  
 a brother of breathless thistle,  
 a blossoming flower of fishbone.  
 Picked from the weathered concrete,  
 picked from the tenement lot.

I am mute on nameless streets.  
 My head in a spiral of gemmed fiddlehead fern.  
 The amber of the earth, burned.  
 Wild, wired electrolyte, spurned.

Fishbone flower, hand in whispy hand.  
 Poppies in the irises, whirring drone.  
 Half fallen, but far too deep.  
 Fossilized in sentiment.

## Haiku / Cinquain Exchange

## The Informed Regulars, In Good Form

### Ode To The Dunkin on Tremont and Mass Ave: a series of haikus Meredith Lakis

Hi can I please have  
 An iced coffee with oat milk  
 Yep that's it. Thank you

Downloaded the app  
 Earned my first points. This is my  
 New identity

Dunkin Manager  
 Now knows me by name. She is  
 Morna, my soul; muse

### Cinquains Susanna Kittredge

Gender  
 is everywhere.  
 Can you catch it? Hold it?  
 Slips through your hands—iridescent,  
 bright fish.

"Honey,  
 are you dressed like  
 a cow?" I asked, asleep.  
 "Moo," he said, snuggling against my  
 milk warmth.

Floater  
 in my right eye:  
 do you live comfortably  
 in my viscous? Protein globule,  
 gray friend.

### Thoughts During Forbes Training At a "Four Star" Hotel Danny Riordan [insta/tiktok: @weirdoriordo]

Hospitality  
 Mitt Romney believes in all  
 his magic standards:

has no idea that  
 I was wranglin' cockroaches  
 the size of a horse


double width of thumb  
 black crawling over tables-  
 my frequent flyers.

Difference between mo  
 tel 8 and luxury? Our  
 roaches eat wagyu.

## Substacks!

Two of our staff members  
 have recently started Substack  
 newsletters!

 Myles Taylor's Good At It:  
 A newsletter, calendar, and  
 advice column about organizing  
 in the poetry scene by one  
 neurotic perfectionist.

 Nayeli's Woman With the Head  
 of a Cur: Goblin writing of love  
 in the later stages (a weekly  
 column rich with links all about  
 the world of Nayeli)



**Anagrams**

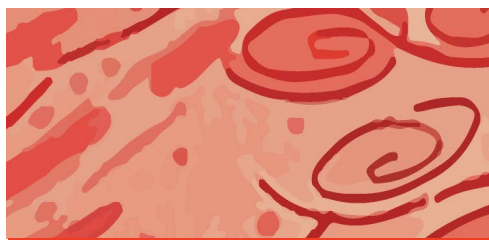
By Michael F. Gill [bbtp.net]

Using the context clues, unscramble the capitalized letters at the end of each sentence to answer each whimsical question. Each answer is one or two words long, and enumerations for the answer are given in parentheses.

Example: What poetic form invented by Terrance Hayes HELD OVEN LOGS? (6,6)

Answer: Golden Shovel

1. What word meaning "early" or "ahead of time" comes at the END OF REHAB? (10)
2. What do you call someone whose brain works so differently that it has moved to an UNGOVERNED TIER? (14)
3. Worcester has a poetry show called The Dirty Gerund. What word describing The Cantab bathrooms is an ETERNAL GERUND? (6-7)
4. What Cantab host loves this section of The Cantabernacle so much that they go by the nickname TREY ANAGRAM? (3, 8)
5. What Cantab host likes sweet potatoes so much that they drive to the Boston Poetry Slam in a YAMS TROLLEY? (5,6)



**Neologisms: fresh n' funky**

**Neologisms | by Jade Patricia Kleiner**  
Newly-coined words to include in your next poem

- Sturgid** - To be upright & grumpy
- Exstrudeled** - compressed into strudel
- Noncruncular** - Unable under any circumstances to produce a crunching sound upon compression (Note there is not an "b" in noncruncular. Not a typo.)

**Tarot Horoscope**

Tips from the Tarot for deepening your relationships this summer from March Penn [@pennmarch]

**Aries: Justice/The World & Four of Wands:** Lean into commitments with groundedness and focus, planning the next big event in your life. Writing prompt: Write a love poem to someone or something and then write a poem based on a Democracy Now news spotlight. Combine the poems together, creating a hybrid.

**Sagittarius: Eight of Cups & Ace of Pentacles:** This is a time to curse whatever winter did to you and start with a new foundation. Casting off the frozenness leads to a sense of home or a new project. Writing prompt: If a poem were a tower, what would you build with and why?

**Leo: Ten of Cups/Knight of Swords & Ace of Pentacles:** You're ready to sit down and ready to be on the move all at once. Determine what projects are worthy of your energy by what feels new and exciting right now. Writing prompt: Find two old poems that you wrote and combine them together, adding one new line every 3-5 lines.

**Taurus: Reversed King of Pentacles & Queen of Cups:** Although your home environment is important for relationship building, consider also the ways that stability undercuts authenticity. How can you learn from things that are inherently unstable without losing your footing?

**Virgo: Three of Swords reversed & the Sun:** This summer involves a full spectrum of mood states as you wear the moon

on your heart. This is eclipse energy, transformative and eerie, a midnight sun. Writing prompt: Write a poem to the moon to explain how you wash dishes; consider each plate a moon phase, a distant intimacy, light peeking into a cave.

**Capricorn: Nine of Wands reversed & Six of Wands:** Consider what you bring into reality and how that transforms in the crucible of shared experiences. Acknowledging changed expectations leads to interesting leadership in your life. Writing prompt: Write a poem with another poet, perhaps sharing a Google doc or piece of paper and see how that changes your writing style or your mood.

**Gemini: Two of Wands & Five of Pentacles:** The summer offers vivid moments that predict your future. When you witness this vividness, jot down what comes to mind. What differences between yourself and reality exist? Writing prompt: Venture to somewhere you don't normally go and notice the smallest details. Begin there and then weave in your hopes and dreams for the future, including what feels discordant.

**Libra: Queen of Cups & reversed Four of Cups:** From being withdrawn to being in the spotlight, notice how you manage your energy levels. Writing prompt: Go to a quiet place and write a poem. Then go to a noisy/chaotic place and write another poem. Put the two poems together and intersperse the piece with pauses and sudden interruptions.

**Aquarius: Eight of Cups & Three of Swords:** You're on an emotional path, and you don't owe anyone healing. Spend some time distinguishing healing from complacency. Writing prompt: If each of your scars gathered together for a meeting, where would they meet and what would they say to each other?

**Cancer: Hanged Man & Wheel of Fortune:** Seasons are social constructs. We exist between, in states of flux and uncertainty. What if confusion were a glittering gem? Writing prompt: Build a scene that you have no control over; how do you move through the space? What images signify between-ness?

**Scorpio: Four of Pentacles & Temperance:** This summer is a good time for considering your values and also which values you have yet to develop. Sometimes the deep sense of loss is actually a space for new values to emerge in your life. Writing prompt: What did you once believe in that you later had to abandon?

**Pisces: Seven of Swords & Five of Swords:** Although community is very important, be honest about the visible seams and loose ends, the way we never finish the project of building it. How can you take back your energy and process the challenges that others throw your way? Writing prompt: Write a poem composed entirely of poem titles of poems that you wish you would have written but haven't been able to yet.

**Rejected Cantab Theme Nights**

By Michael F. Gill [bbtp.net]

**Disappearing Audience Night:** Calling all lone wolves and community members who are seeking FOMO! Every person who attends tonight must sign up for the open mic, and they must leave the basement right after they read. No re-entry allowed. This continues until there is no one left in the basement except the host, who reads their poem to an empty room and ends the show.

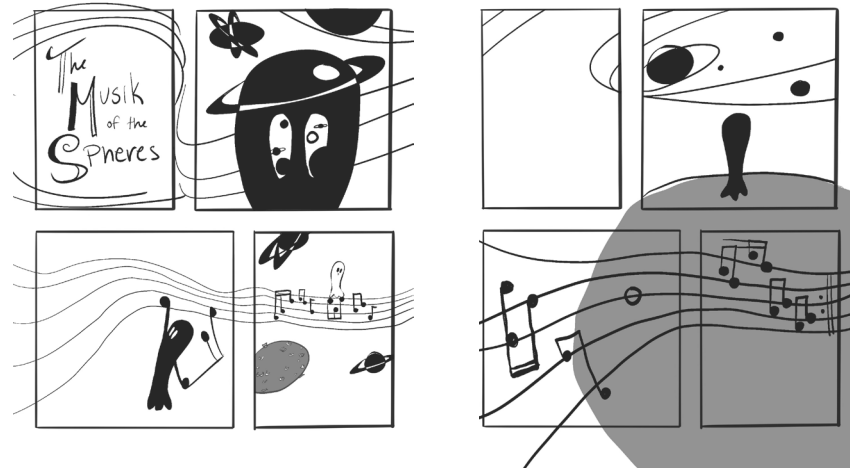
**Become A Staff Member Slam:** If you can defeat three staff members in a head-to-head slam, you get to be a Boston Poetry Slam staff member for the next week! BONUS: Take on Myles Taylor in the 4th round, and if you win, you get to be slam curator for a week! If you lose, you have to cover a poem on the open mic by the staff members who beat you. If you win, staff members have to cover your poems on the open mic.

**The Plantab Lounge:** Everyone brings their houseplants and reads poems about them on the open mic. The stage is made up of a poet, a microphone, and one hundred plants.

**Imaginary Movie / TV Series Slam:** Each poem is a description of an invented film, or is a full season arc of a tv show that doesn't exist yet. The winning poet gets to have a full feature where their movie / tv show is performed with a full ensemble at The Cantab Lounge.

**Poetography & Comics**

The Adventures Of Otto & Pip - C.S. Taylor (cs-taylor.com)



**Crossword**  
**Ben Tolkin [nautiluspuz.com]**  
Clues... **Across**

1. Playwright Deavere Smith
5. It comes between opening and closing times?
8. Elaborate scam
9. "Regarding..."
10. Roof overhang
11. White whale chaser
12. Set of manuscripts that have potential

1	2	3	4		5	6	7
8					9		
10					11		
12				13			
		14					
	15				16	17	18
19					20		
21					22		
23					24		

14. "Gossip Girl" deuteragonist Waldorf
15. Letter opener?
16. Number needed for a 22-Across
19. Street illuminator
21. Potentially awkward spots?
22. "I Got You Babe," e.g.
23. Rolling stone's lack
24. Rightfully suspicious of

- Clues... **Down**
1. "Excuse me!"
  2. Weather research org.
  3. Filling for a traditional African American Muslim pie
  4. They might fly off the handle?
  5. Device for aggressively topping strangers?
  6. Bold alternative, for short?
  7. Place for a stud?
  9. \_\_\_ Heritage Month (May honor established in 1991)
  13. Rapper Sweatshirt
  15. Art \_\_\_ (early 20th century art style)
  17. Spark, as interest
  18. Actress Miranda of "Lord of the Rings," or Cantab poet Vock
  19. Smoked meat
  20. Wedding words

**Submit to the Cantabernacle!**

Guidelines:

- 1) Your submission is not too long
- 2) You frequent our Wednesday night show

Send submissions of your work to: michael@bostonpoetryslam.com



**Fundamental Funnel**  
March Penn [insta: @pennmarch]

Full color version is available to see in the digital version at our website (bostonpoetryslam.com)!



**Relic's Anniversary**  
Kat Anderson [insta: @blue\_razzz]

A pile of leftover cake sat in front of Zeke's skull, BPS reopening anniversary 2024.