

# Erasure Poems for National Poetry Month



cc@d supplement  
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performance by *Janet Kuypers*  
to celebrate National Poetry Month  
at the Bahá'í Center Saturday 4/1/17 after 6pm in Austin

# erasure poem: the Meaning of Art

Janet Kuypers

3/13/17

*These are selected words from excerpts of a key Adolf Hitler  
speech on art in Nuremberg, September 6, 1938.*

the endowment of a true artist  
is that his work of art  
expresses the general will of a period

works of art rightly mirror  
the inner mind  
of age  
of life

at present,  
expression of the world with race  
will turn to ages which  
have already possessed  
freedom of the spirit,  
of the will, and of the mind

This, naturally,  
the manifestation in art  
shall be influenced  
in a thousand ways  
through the evidences  
and memories  
of that which still,  
as an ideal force  
lives on  
and works on  
in the imagination

The more the modern approaches this  
more and more will civilization be influenced

art is  
in its purpose  
no mystic cult,  
only the care of a people  
We have no religious retreats, but arenas,  
and our assembly is not the mystical gloom  
of a cathedral, but brightness and light

mystically-minded steal

art,  
works of culture, positive facts,  
speak louder than any

we can speak of a new awakening  
of our cultural life,  
which finds its confirmation  
not in mutual compliments  
and literary phrases, but  
in positive evidences  
of cultural creative force

architecture, sculpture, painting,  
drama, and the rest bring proof  
of a creative period in art,  
which for richness and impetuosity  
has rarely been matched  
in the course of human history

try to turn these facts upside down,  
we know that cultural achievements  
will have won respect and appreciation  
far more than the material

have no doubt that creative work,  
since it is the most sensitive expression of a talent,  
cannot be understood, far less appreciated,  
by individuals who are not the same

make art  
it is a proclamation  
of body and spirit

it does not make  
propaganda for an individual work,  
for the subject, or for the artist;  
it makes propaganda for the world  
which confronts us

and so art will announce and herald  
that common mental attitude,  
that common view of life,  
because these can meet  
with understanding  
only if it reveals in itself  
the true essence of the spirit

The mystic narrowness  
and gloom of the cathedrals  
began to recede and,  
to match the free life of the spirit,  
buildings became spacious  
and flooded with light

mystical twilight gave way  
before increasing brightness

freedom of the soul and of the will,  
for centuries, opened the way  
to new forms of expression  
and artistic creation

# erasure poem: corner stone against slavery

Janet Kuypers

3/12/17

*These are selected words from the Corner Stone Speech, an oration by Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens in Savannah, Georgia March 21, 1861.*

This would split.

conjecture with  
the great truth  
may be doubted.

prevailing  
formation of the old  
were the violation  
of the laws of nature;

socially,  
morally,  
politically.

It was an evil.

Those ideas  
were fundamentally wrong  
rested upon the  
assumption of equality.  
This was an error  
a sandy foundation,  
it fell  
when the  
storm came.

Our laid corner stone,  
the great truth  
is not equal to the  
natural and normal.  
this great physical,  
philosophical,  
and moral truth,  
It has been so amongst us.  
The errors of the past still cling  
with a zeal above knowledge,  
from the mind of insanity.

conclusions are right  
if premises were.  
the equal,  
warring against principle  
founded in nature,  
should, ultimately, succeed,  
and would ultimately fail.  
That impossible war  
against a principle  
was warring  
against principle.

equal  
made  
unequal.

<https://www.facebook.com/event/296378004111135> National Poetry Month @ Expressions

**Janet Kuypers' next poetry feature:**  
**Saturday, April 1, 2017 after 6 PM**  
at the Baker's Earth Center  
(see event URL for details)

**erasure poems**  
written for National Poetry Month

**Kuypers' new poems**  
generated by selecting words  
from historical documents  
well known (by erasing the  
rest of the original writing).

secure peace,  
show your ability,  
maintain your rights.  
Never allow slavery  
to the soil.  
clamor against  
getting or  
letting go.  
fight this strange paradox

There seems to be  
but one rational solution,  
notwithstanding humanity,  
give up the benefits.  
labor to the necessary  
they come from nature

this seceding question,  
the desire

peace

simply  
a recognition  
of our independence

<https://www.facebook.com/event/296378004111135> National Poetry Month @ Expressions  
<https://www.facebook.com/event/1892987840727045> Expressions April 1, 2017

**Janet Kuypers'**  
next poetry feature:  
**Sat. 4/1/17 after 6 PM**

See Kuypers w/ many feature live  
at the Baba I Faith Center  
(see event URL for details)

**erasure  
poems**

written for National Poetry Month

Hear & enjoy Janet Kuypers' new poems, where she selected words from historically known documents (making poems from erasing the rest of the original).

# erasure poem: a Declaration of Female Freedom

Janet Kuypers

3/17/17

*These are selected women's rights words pulled  
from the United States Declaration of Independence.*

it becomes necessary  
to dissolve this

to assume power

separate from man

i impel the separation

hold these truths  
to be self-evident,  
men create no rights  
on life and happiness—  
men derive power  
from the weak

and i am not  
more disposed to suffer

evils are themselves  
a long train of abuses  
and it is right for me  
to provide new  
future security

it is now necessity  
to avoid injuries  
and the absolute tyranny  
over me

He has utterly neglected me,  
refused me  
thought I am only a body  
for the sole purpose of  
compliance with his measures

He has dissolved my rights

He has refused for a long time  
any power I have

He has prevented  
obstructed justice  
on his Will alone,  
to harrass  
with Military power

his acts  
on all parts  
on us without our Consent  
depriving us benefits

for offenses  
on the free

Bound at once  
an example  
for introducing  
the same absolute rule

For once

what is  
Right  
for us

and with this firm reliance,  
we pledge  
our Lives  
and our sacred Honor.

# erasure poem: 'One of the Most Hated Women in America'

Janet Kuypers

3/25/17

*These are chosen words spoken by Casey Anthony  
after she was charged with the murder of her infant  
daughter Caylee (for which she was later acquitted).*

she keeps a lonely,  
guarded life now

*in her words,*

"I was in confinement  
for twenty-three hours a day  
for weeks at a time."

*in her words,*

"My sentence was doled out  
long before there was a verdict.  
Sentence first, verdict afterward."

Guilty long before a day in court."

*in her words,*

she does not have a  
"significant problem  
with *not* telling the truth."

*in her words,*

“I hate to say this, but  
cops believe other cops,  
cops tend to victimize the victims.

I see why I was treated  
the way I was even  
*had* I been completely truthful.”

“Cops lie to people every day.  
I’m just one of the  
unfortunate idiots  
who admitted they lied.”

*in her words,*

“I don’t give a shit  
about what anyone  
thinks about me,

I never will.

I’m OK with myself.

I sleep pretty good at night.”

These are chosen words spoken by Casey Anthony since the 2008 death of her infant daughter Caylee. Casey did not report her daughter missing until a month after she was last seen, and Caylee’s remains were found in a wooded area near her home.

Anthony was accused of killing her daughter. Prosecutors could not establish how Caylee died, but Judge Belvin Perry Jr., who presided at Anthony’s trial, suggested that Anthony may have accidentally killed her daughter while trying to calm her with chloroform (according to *the Orlando Sentinel*).

An investigator claimed that her lawyer, Jose Baez, told them “that Casey had murdered Caylee and dumped the body”.

Casey Anthony was convicted of lying to police, but was acquitted of murder charges.

Casey Anthony was described by a Florida Department of Corrections spokeswoman as ‘One of the Most Hated Women in America’.

# erasure poem: a Poetic History

Janet Kuypers

3/16/17

*These are selected English words from Sri Sri's Telugu poem  
"Desa Charitralu" (translated to 'Histories of the Nations').*

history  
proud  
of  
exploitation of others

history  
an exercise in mutual destruction  
history  
drenched in the blood of war

history  
made slaves of the meek  
murders climbed to glory

entire past is wet with blood  
if not, with tears

decimated populations  
echo history

connivance, jealousies conflicts  
prove the course of history

grand murderers and thugs built  
a bridge of swords to time

artificial laws with other forces  
fell down as houses of cards



The deception  
the heinous crimes of the mighty  
the schemes  
can't be allowed

exploitation  
of one person by another  
one race by a different race  
can't go on

All the down-trodden peoples  
the different races of all continents  
will broadcast in one voice  
the true nature of history

Which battle took place?  
Which kingdom lasted how long?  
the dates, the documents  
these are not the essence

stories hidden under  
the dark corners of history  
are wanted

truth won't hide by being hidden

In the twilights of history  
what was the development  
of the human?  
What achieved grand truth?

Which sculpture? What literature?  
Which science? What music?  
Which renunciation?  
Which dream?



# Erasure Poems

TERIOR HEATER PIPES  
INLET OR OUTLET  
E CAPS REQUIRED

FREIGHT PULLER  
DO NOT EXCEED 42 T

THIS UNIT IS A HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
FIELD WITH THE SAFETY TRANSPORTATION UNIT  
FRONT - STOPPING & STOP AT ON  
TOW - THE P-STOP

Janet Kuypers  
[www.janetkuypers.com](http://www.janetkuypers.com)

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scars *suopjeiqand*

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