Erasure Poems for National Poetry Month

ISSN #1068-5154

performance by Janet Kuypers
to celebrate National Poetry Month
at the Baha’i Center Saturday 4/1/17 after 6pm in Austin
erasure poem:  
the Meaning of Art

Janet Kuypers

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.
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/296378008411135 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
erasure poem:
a Declaration of Female Freedom

Janet Kuypers

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

3/28/17

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’.
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

Janet Kuypers
www.janetkuypers.com

http://scars.tv