

The Muses' Gallery

Clerihews - Fall 2016

With the election season upon us, what better time than to poke fun at the people in the news. But not just politicians, that would get boring fast. This gallery looks at rock stars, movie stars, scientists, architects, literary heroes, authors, artists of all flavors and so much more.

This gallery is meant for a laugh (or two or more) and focuses exclusively on the poetic form, the Clerihew. Created by Edward Clerihew Bentley, the Clerihew follows a few basic rules:

- 4 lines written in an AABB rhyme scheme
- First line is composed entirely or must contain the name of a famous person (living, fictional or dead)
- The poem pokes fun at this person
- No set meter, syllable count or whatnot

This exercise was also intended to be fun for the poets - a chance to play without pressure. Few journals publish clerihews these days. Who knows - we might start a revolution!

Enjoy!



Edmund Clerihew Bentley
spent his time in school so
intently
creating the genre we call
clerihew
filling a void in the lives of so
few.



- Curt Vevang
Palatine, Illinois

Politicians



Hillary, Hillary she's the one
We need in the White House to have some fun
A lady for president with good old Bill
Maybe then of the Clintons we will have our fill.

- Marjorie Rissman
Highland Park, Illinois

Hillary Clinton
Though not a John Milton
At least is gregarious
If not multifarious.

- Daniel Cleary
Chicago, Illinois

When Hillary Clinton
finished her stint in
the White House, she still
had her first lad Bill.

- James Reiss
Wilmette, Illinois



Poor old Hillary
Subject to the pillory
Bad-mouthed by the GOP
Spotting scandals as far as they can see

- Judith Bernstein
Highland Park, Illinois

Smart and feisty is Hillary
pooh-poohing the threat of the pillory.
Glass-breaking female
attacked by her email.

- Joe Glaser
Chicago, Illinois

Donald Trump
will surely inspire Highland Park poets to pump
out clerihews that could fill an entire
bookshelf,
but none quite as laughable as Trump himself.

- Vince Gotera
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Donald J. Trump
was seen down at the dump
looking to "bust limbs
of Mexicans and Muslims."

- James Reiss
Wilmette, Illinois

Donald Trump
May be in a slump
Ah so, but remember
Wait till November.

- Daniel Cleary
Chicago, Illinois

The Donald

We have a candidate named Trump
Who many would like to dump
He lacks the brains to be president
But he sure knows how to vent!

- Marjorie Rissman
Highland Park, Illinois

The Donald Trump
He ain't no chump.
With hair of gold,
He's uncontrolled.

The Donald Trump
He ain't no slump.



While standing tall,
He's prone to bawl.

- James Paradiso
Chicago, Illinois

Angry cheers and jeers for the man
named Trump
tapping deep feelings on his Twitterly
stump.
Riding the heights of crassness
it's easy to fall on one's assness.

- Joe Glaser
Chicago, Illinois



If Barack Obama
thought Vasco de Gama
discovered America, Barack
never turned back that clock.

- James Reiss
Wilmette, Illinois

While at the zoo, Pres. Obama
rode atop a handsome llama.
He didn't want a camel's hump,
and left that bumpy ride for Trump.

- Marjorie Maddox
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Take a look at Joe Biden,
the high road he's sure been ridin',
but pretty soon he'll disappear
to V.P. heaven and a beer.

- Marilyn Peretti
Glen Ellyn, Illinois



Old Rush Limbaugh
Is a fatty bourgeois.
Anytime he wants a thrill
He just pops another pill.

- Eric Allen Yankee
Chicago, Illinois

Michele Obama,
star spangled mama,
beautiful gams, rockin' those guns,
hoping the nation can drop a few tons.

- Kathleen Lawrence
Cortland, New York

Of the Obamas I'll take Michelle,
a tall and gorgeous bombshell.
Soon she'll have to take backseat
to pretty daughters: admit defeat!

- Marilyn Peretti
Glen Ellyn, Illinois





There once was a Lincoln named Abraham
Whose crown was a top hat that made a logjam
When he walked through a door so much time to
remove and stoop
That Abe often felt like a giant nincompoop

- Marie Samuel
Carterville, Illinois

The idealistic old socialist named Sanders
preaches a litany that never meanders.
This compromising rebel may never run dry
if he eats some crow in his apple pie.

- Joe Glaser
Chicago, Illinois



Bernie Sanders
never panders.
Although scruffy and a screamer,
he's still a unicorn dreamer.

- Kathleen A. Lawrence
Cortland, New York



Have you heard of Elizabeth Warren
harping on good fiscal carin'?
For my money I like the mattress
to counteract the dollar stress.

- Marilyn Peretti
Glen Ellyn, Illinois

Sir Narendra Damodardas Modi
Often a face of parody
In the name of meeting the needs of his
country
He remains on his world travel spree

- Sakshi J. Arora
Panchkula, Haryana, India



Anthony Weiner's
pics couldn't be meaner.
"Can't help it," he sighs
(click), then brags about size.

- Marjorie Maddox
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Anthony Weiner
needs to be cleaner
And cut his texts short
Because of his tiny retort.

- Kathleen A. Lawrence
Cortland, New York

George W. Bush
now rests on his tush,
sitting for hours
just painting those flowers.

George W. Bush
gave Cheney a push
but found out his heart
was just a robot part.

Two by Kathleen A. Lawrence
Cortland, New York



Actors & Movie Stars

Veronica Lake
Could make any guy quake
How that one eye would glare
Peeking from beneath her hair

- Gail Vescovi
Oakbrook, Illinois



How we will miss dear Gene Wilder,
Whose persona could not have been
milder.
But how we would laugh when, undone,
He made the neurotic such fun.

- Ellen Pickus
Baldwin, New York

Bette Davis could make the sun rise
with her delightful if deadly eyes--
just watch *All About Eve*
if you don't believe.

- Kenneth Pobo
Media, Pennsylvania





When one thinks of the comic Stan
Laurel,
One simply must think in the plural.
He always partnered with Ollie;
The team was delightfully jolly.

- Ellen Pickus
Baldwin, New York

Artists & Architects

Frank Lloyd Wright's
constructions were a sight
that he practiced architecture
was a matter of conjecture

- Judith Tullis
Indian Head Park, Illinois

Frank Lloyd Wright
An American architect without much
height
His most famous residence is a dream
Built atop a Pennsylvania stream

- Jennifer Dotson
Highland Park, Illinois



Claude Monet's
Last painting days
Water lilies ad infinitum
Float atop blooming pond scum.

- Ann Lamas
Chicago, Illinois

Viva la Frida!

Frida Kahlo
with mucho bravado
parlayed a bold mustache
into idiosyncratic panache.

- Susan J. Erickson
Bellingham, Washington



what inspired the muse of Van Gogh
while in his bleak studio
was it a starry night
or some other dazzling sight

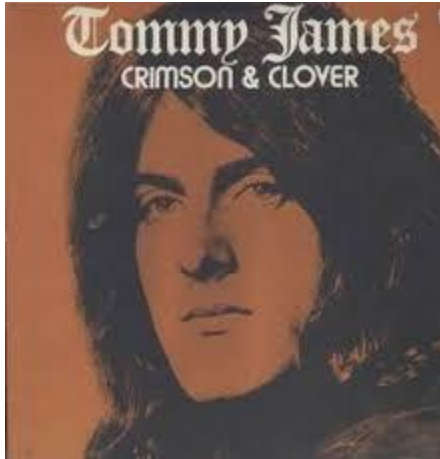
- Candace Kubinec
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Musicians

He only needs one name to be known, it's Elvis
Recognized for his hair and swaying pelvis
Girls would swoon before they fainted and fell
Especially when they heard Heartbreak Hotel

- Julie Isaacson
Highland Park, Illinois





Tommy James had hit singles
that caused many musical tingles,
I still sing them over and over,
"Mony, Mony" and "Crimson and Clover."

- Kenneth Pobo
Media, Pennsylvania

Frank Zappa
Wrote a lot of crappa
Not one song in tune
He named his kid Moon

- Gail Vescovi
Oakbrook, Illinois



Everybody is watching the Olympics in
Rio,
I'd rather listen to Ronnie James Dio.
He may be dead, but he still rocks on,
so, Ronnie, won't you pass the baton?

- Mark Hudson
Evanston, Illinois



Sir Paul McCartney.
Done most everything vegan 2 speed party.
64 but still has hair.
Silly love songs a wing, Beatle, dare 2 compare.

- Kenny Sommer
Highland Park, Illinois



Ringo Starr
drove on the wrong side of his car.
He pounded his drums
And hung out with three chums.

- Kathleen A. Lawrence
Cortland, New York

Athletes

Here comes Michael Phelps
through the water to wild yelps.
I'm jealous of his skill to swim.
For me, it's straight back to the gym!

- Marilyn Peretti
Glen Ellyn, Illinois



Caitlyn Jenner,
the decathlon winner,
dissatisfied with his penis,
dreamed of becoming Venus.



Ryan Lochte
had to pee.
Somewhere between good and naughty,
he was just a man searching for a potty.

O.J. Simpson
left a legacy in crimson.
He thought he could outrun
the law and the L.A. sun.

Three by Kathleen A. Lawrence
Cortland, New York



Ryan Lochte
such a hottie.
But after Rio?
A lying zero.

- Marjorie Maddox
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Poets & Writers

The poetry of Robert Frost
Is a legacy that won't be lost;
Though parodies of Snowy Wood
Are rarely ever any good!

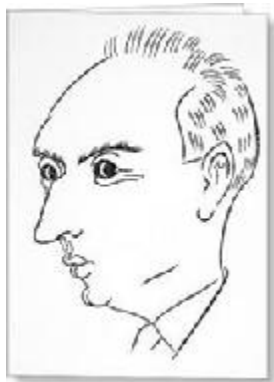
- Cheryl Anne Hale
Middletown, Connecticut



Yes, We Have No Plums

William Carlos Williams
ate the last of the sweet cold plums,
left Flossie that poem, succinct and
spare,
to embellish her breakfast of ripe
Camembert.

- Susan J. Erickson
Bellingham, Washington



A Light

Seamus Heaney
sees things keenly
and makes them shine,
line by keen line.

- Robert West
Starkville, Mississippi





The Emperor of Ice Cream

Wallace Stevens,
poet of urbane citizens,
taught us to scrutinize common
blackbirds
and to lust after concupiscent curds.

- Susan J. Erickson
Bellingham, Washington

The books of Ogden Nash
were once considered crass
yet they live right on, spread endless
cheer
to those whose whole outlook is drear

- Gail Denham
Sun River, Oregon



Samuel Johnson
was no *landsman*
mocked the Scots and French
pretty gruff but still a *mensch!*

- Bill Yarrow
Lincolnwood, Illinois

Nevermore

Poor Edgar Allan Poe
Was in an alcoholic depression, and feeling so low,
Starving, he stumbled out on the streets of Baltimore to
roam
Found nothing to eat, so went back to his study to write a
raven-ous poe-m.

- Sam Bernstein
Highland Park, Illinois



Tennessee Williams
made millions
on one horny fella
yelling Stella.

- James Reiss
Wilmette, Illinois

Hemingway survived
Though he imbibed
On too much Bombay sapphire
Which set his esophagus on fire

- Ina Pearl Perlmutter
Northbrook, Illinois





Wild Nights—Wild Nights!

Ms. Emily Elizabeth Dickinson dressed monochromatically—chaste as a nun. Her dashes of plentitude—inexactitude—lead one to surmise she slept in the nude.

- Susan J. Erickson
Bellingham, Washington

Chesterton of London Town wrote the series "Father Brown." While Chesterton is dead, God bless, his bobby priest's on PBS.

- Anne V. McGravie
Chicago, Illinois



Himself

Mr. Walt Whitman sang of himself, Electric American!, exuberantly proclaiming his eccentric gestalt. Oh, ego! Oh, id! Oh, Walt!

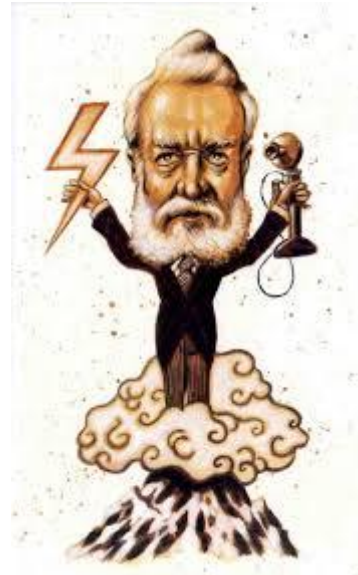
- Susan J. Erickson
Bellingham, Washington



Scientists & Inventors

Alexander Graham Bell
occupies a ring of hell,
The outcome of his phone invention:
High bills, contracts, sheer contention.

- Anne V. McGravie
Chicago, Illinois



Did Madame Curry
begin to worry
when she discovered radium
caused her hairs to evacuatium?

- Jennifer Dotson
Highland Park, Illinois



The Pioneer plaques are a pair of gold-anodized aluminium plaques placed on board the 1972 Pioneer 10 and 1973 Pioneer 11 spacecraft, featuring a pictorial message from mankind. Sagan was enthusiastic about the idea of sending a message with the Pioneer spacecraft. NASA agreed to the plan and gave him three weeks to prepare a message. Together with Frank Drake he designed the plaque, and the artwork was prepared by Sagan's then wife Linda Salzman Sagan.

One can see that the woman's genitals are not really depicted; only the Mons pubis is shown. It has been

claimed that Sagan, having little time to complete the plaque, suspected that NASA would have rejected a more intricate drawing and therefore made a compromise just to be safe.

Linda Sagan decided to make the figures nude to address the problem of the type of clothes they should wear to represent all of humanity and to make the figures more anatomically educational for extraterrestrials, but their nudity was viewed as pornographic by the American media. According to astronomer Frank Drake, there were many negative reactions to the plaque because the human beings were displayed naked.

And now, the clerihew:

The Pioneer Plaques were assigned to Carl Sagan,
But Linda, his wife, learned she'd better be vague in
Depicting the nude earthling pair's genitalia
Lest they should incite an ET bacchanalia!

- Marne Glaser
Chicago, Illinois

Jim Beam
hatched a scheme
to distill whiskey
and make me frisky

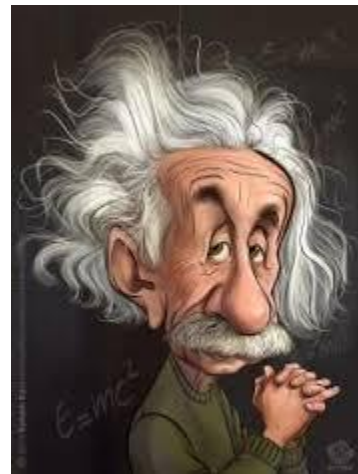
- Judith Tullis
Indian Head Park, Illinois

Doctor/surgeon Joseph Lister,
English, so addressed as "Mister,"
world renowned as "Mister Clean"
for introducing Listerine.

- Anne V. McGravie
Chicago, Illinois

Albert Einstein
guzzled red wine
and said he wasn't at liberty
to talk about relativity.

- James Reiss
Wilmette, Illinois



Albert Einstein,
a creepy awkward man.
His theory of relativity - blah.
You'll never prove it or find gravitational
waves, ha!

- Kenny Sommer
Highland Park, Illinois



Antonie van Leewenhoek
Must certainly have taken a second look,
His lenses revealing animalcules,
In a drop from his favorite drinking
pools.

- J. H. Cooper
Vernon Hills, Illinois

Ben Franklin created a kite
He flew it, perhaps out of spite
He felt awfully smart and quite
justified,
while his top hat was crispy and fried

- Gail Denham
Sun River, Oregon



Fictional Figures



that 30s sleuth Nancy Drew
had no idea, not a clue
that someday she'd be seen
bigger than life on a screen

- Candace Kubinec
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Ichabod Crane
Is dancing insane.
Unaware of the head
That wishes him dead.

- Sheila M. Gagne
Deerfield, Illinois





The Greek seductress Lysistrata,
Declared her lover persona non grata.
Until he lay down his Thanototic arms,
She'd not award him her nubile charms.

- J. H. Cooper
Vernon Hills, Illinois

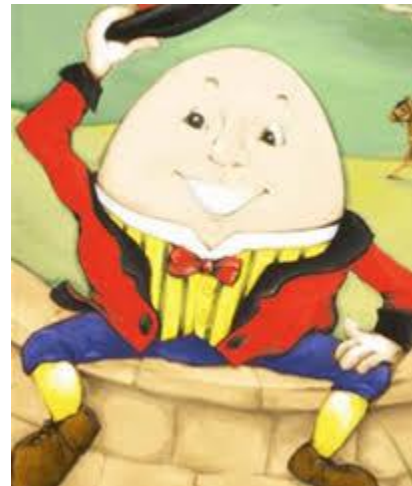
Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street,
a sleuth no crim could hope to beat.
He smoked while weighing every clue.
The contents of his pipe? Who knew?

- Anne V. McGravie
Chicago, Illinois



Humpty Dumpty a fragile lad
Climbed a wall and that was bad
A little tumble cracked his shell
Some say that he'll be gone a spell

- Marilyn Huntman Giese
Naperville, Illinois





King Richard the Third
his words a bit slurred,
claimed, "Thou dost infect my thighs,"
though he really meant, "infect my
eyes."

- Cassandra McGovern



Huckleberry Finn
Chose a life of sin
When he protected dear ole Jim
Instead of ratting out him.

- Judith Bernstein
Highland Park, Illinois