

John F. McMullen

A Poem Is Not a Jump Shot

I have done at least
One thing perfectly
In my life
I have faked my man
Gone up in the air and
Gotten nothing by net
Perfect

Now I write poetry
And now no matter
How happy I am
With a poem
It is never perfect

It can always be tweaked
Have words added
Or cut or changed
Never really finished
Never perfect

But, sometimes,
I have
To pause
To stop
And just get
Poems out the door

And that is this submission

Flash

I woke up
this morning
with an insight
into the meaning
of it all

I wanted to
rush to
tell the world
-- to explain
everything!

But, alas,
I can't
It's still under
investigation by
the Southern District
of New York

January 1, 2019

I sit in a chair
Leaning on my cane
And watch my wife
Walk Fala The Wonder Dog
On our property

Years ago,
I could have trotted
With Fala
But no more

It could be worse
Much worse

Now my goal
Is mainly to
Be able to write
These same words
On January 1, 2020

Food Pantry

I volunteer on
Saturday mornings
At our local
Pantry

Every week
We give food to
Over 100 families
All sorts of food
Ham
Tuna
Beans
3 cans of Vegetables
3 cans of fruit
Bag of fresh vegetables
Pasta
Tomato Sauce
Soup
Rice
Cereal
Juice
Eggs
Cake
Bread
Rolls
Bagels

But on holidays
We have toys,
Turkeys, and fixins for
Many more people

On the Saturday
Before Christmas
We gave food
To 170 families
And
Toys to 370 children

Most of the recipients
Are very polite and grateful,
Smiling and making

Small talk and saying

Thank you

A very small minority

Are not pleasant,

Even scowl, and

Act as though

We owe them something

Maybe they are right

About the Poet

John F. McMullen, “johnmac the bard,” is the Poet Laureate of the Town of Yorktown, NY, a graduate of Iona College (BA – English Literature) and the holder of two Master degrees from Marist College (MSCS – Information Systems & MPA – Criminal Justice), a member of the American Academy of Poets, Poets & Writers, the Hudson Valley Writers Center, the Mahopac & Yorktown Poetry Workshops and the Mahopac Writers Group, the author of over 2,500 columns and articles and eight books, six of which are collections of poetry (most recently, “Live at the Freight House”), and is the host of a weekly Internet Radio Show (over 280 shows to date). Links to the recordings of all radio shows as well as information on Poet Laureate activities is available at www.johnmac13.com.