



April Theme: Who do you draw inspiration from in your work?

Leigh Grant -- The question of from whom one draws inspiration is circumscribed by research and life experiences for most authors. When I was an illustrator, members of my family and friends were often models for characters. The best instance that I remember was meeting Clyde Bulla, author of *Shoeshine Girl* for which I had done the line drawings in his book. I had never met or talked with the author. We were at a reception for him given by the publisher. He said the character I drew, based on a childhood friend I grew up with, looked exactly like the girl he had written the book about. He couldn't believe it! Either could I! We came from opposite sides of the country.

Who Inspires Me In Poetry? **Lee Paine**, March 9, 2023

Who Inspires me in poetry?
The GPW Poetry Group!
We hang together just like
a travelling improv troupe!

Every meeting is unscripted,
but follows certain guidelines.
The range of poetic styles,
reveals the depth of our minds.

There are always ideas
for a monthly theme or two.
We sometimes have many,
but never too few

poems to hear and discuss,
to ponder and admire.
We support, encourage each other,
and I never tire

of the input and insights I gain
from these able minds,
and their interpretations
of my ideas. They are kind.

I am amazed at the bravery
of some to openly reveal
soul searching concepts,
too deep for others to steal.

New poetry styles are shared.
Some try every single suggestion.
The poems turn out each time
to make a bold impression!

Poetry should be uniquely personal,
which makes it difficult to write.
One has to keep the purpose
and message clearly in sight.

So I stay with this kind of meter.
It's so deeply in my mind,
that I work on my message,
rather than try a new kind.

We GPW poets, together,
are exposing our thoughts in verse -
strongly bonded now, philosophically,
for better or for worse!

Who inspires my poetry?
The GPW Poets, every one.
Each one's voice is important.
We write, we emote, we have fun!

Margaret Esme Simon -- For my still lifes, I draw inspiration from Giorgio Morandi. I love the calmness of his work though I do not repeat the use of my objects as much as he did. He was rather a recluse and perhaps that accounts for his repainting so many things in new and different ways. Usually I prefer to paint new things in each of my paintings.



Natura Morta by Giorgio Morandi Copper Tea Pot by Margaret Esme Simon

May Theme: What is the biggest challenge you see in the coming year and how will you overcome it?



GUIDELINES --- Original artwork and photographs: Jpegs no larger than 500 kb. Proofread stories, essays and poems: 150 words *more or less*; photographs related to your story are permitted. Music: one page scores only, with text. Send your submission no later than the 20th of the month for the upcoming month. i.e., for January send Dec. 20th; February send Jan. 20th, etc. Email: dorismady42@gmail.com.
Let's hear from YOU!