



## A celebrity by far

"Hi Sam, hope I am not too late!  
Got stuck with traffic?  
Nope, more like fans!  
Wow! Is that my costume?  
By the way, how do you like my new perfume?"

An angel thus speaks,  
A modern day Cinderella in her dreams,  
Sizzling, dazzling, playing her parts,  
Wherever she goes, wins million hearts.

"Hi mom! Sorry I'm a bit late,  
Got myself stuck in a lousy photo shoot,  
Just couldn't shake it off,  
Did Mary call? She promised me at noon,  
I hope you didn't forget your dose,  
Watching all your lovely cartoons."

No more the celebrity star,  
A caring heart by far,  
Pushing an elderly lady in a wheel chair,  
She kisses her with a heart so fair.

"You really need to be resting, the Doctor said,  
Once you've had your dinner, I'll tuck you in bed."

**Nalaka Dassanayaka**

The poem is about role-playing in society. The poet has been successful in conveying the central idea of the poem through a simple yet unassuming diction.



## Granny's only bus

A motor bus arrived at the bus stop  
Everyone  
scrambled to get in quick  
The stooping old granny in a grey dress  
Struggled  
to find her way  
Through  
the throbbing crowd  
No  
one saw her, no one heard her  
No  
one cared, so she didn't get in

The next bus came in fifteen minutes  
The old granny again tried to reach the steps  
Shewas pushed back rather than forward  
Finally  
ending again at the bus stop  
The stronger got in and went away happily  
The old granny waited for the third bus

Thinking  
it would take her at last

The  
third bus came in fifteen minutes  
The  
crowd has thinned to a fair few now  
The  
old granny got in and had a seat too  
She  
fell asleep soon and was tired too  
She  
woke up quickly by the hospital  
Got  
down and hurried to the clinic  
Where  
her arthritis doctor treats

The  
time is eleven, can't you see?  
The  
clinic is over, no doctor you can see  
The  
old granny reached the bus stop  
And  
hailed an empty bus returning home  
She  
had a hearty sleep as she knew whereabouts  
And  
saw a fine dream of a Granny Only Bus  
That  
took her to the hospital right on time

**Sujeewa Gunaratne**

In this narrative poem, the poet relates an incident in life. At times, the poem sounds like a statement and it lacks poetic diction. The poem would have been more effective if the poet had thought a little about the poetic diction.

## A solitary elephant

Mating with blood relations  
Like some other beasts for reproduction  
Is despised by the wise and giant elephant  
And leave the youth stubborn the time that relevant

Confused and furious the young untamed  
Efforts to be a giant unashamed  
Wanders in search of strengthening nutrition  
To make his own flock in portion

Alas! a tragedy that going to be  
The habitats are planted lived by he  
Born in jungle the solitary unawared  
Breaks in to habitats man got for crop cared

A little brave child just gave up suckling  
Went to his father's Chena crawling  
Smiled, shouted and clapped at the giant feeding  
Yet the mistaken giant crushed the child till bleeding

Are we to accuse the elephant for the murder?  
Or the child who shouted at the murderer?  
Or the god that let it happen?

**W.P.N.C. Hapangala**

The poem is about an accident. The poet has used a simple diction and apt metaphors. At times, however, the poem sounds like a narrative.



## My tomorrow

On silent nights, along darker roads,  
I traversed; on an endless journey,  
Searching for life's worth,  
Sneaking through barricaded streets,  
Lined up with cruel smiles, hushed up whispers,  
Anguish, anxiety staring at me  
A burdened heart, uncertain tomorrows,  
The dream I pursued,  
Was mine alone.

(Dream of a street mother for a good day for her children.)

**Chanakya Liyanage**

The poem is noted for its brevity and the portrayal of a life of an impoverished street mother who incessantly search for a better tomorrow for her children. The poet has skilfully captured the mindscape of the street mother.



## The mirror of life

Simple connotations'  
Undermined meanings  
Unasked questions  
Waiting to know, answers  
Glimpses of memories  
Lingering in eternity  
The mirror of life laughing  
At its amazed beholders

While the beholder stares  
Wondering, wondering  
At his unpredictable future  
Wondering, wondering  
If all his unheard dreams will come true  
Sighing deep within  
He looks up again  
At the mirror of life  
Hoping, praying, yearning  
That life will go jus smooth.

**F. Farwin Rahuman**

The poem is noted for its philosophical ideas rendered in an apt diction. The poet has effectively used short lines to convey the vagaries of life and hope that sustains it.



## Daughter

The river bank is calm and restful  
where I was sitting on a fallen dried tree trunk  
brighter sun has become tender  
glistening with golden smile  
setting behind the lush green canopy  
I recall the wonderful day you were born  
In a sententious cool evening!

I was so impatient and anxious  
To see your little loving face  
you wake me up by the first scream  
of your birth  
It was filled with alarm, sweet hopes and temptations to hug  
the most wonderful gift apart from  
my son, you loving daughter!

Limelight of my future expectations gone  
responsibility with love and care emerged  
I guessed, my love, affection and tasks has broadened  
to protect you from evil spirits of the kaleidoscopic society  
just like the grey heron  
sitting under the canopy of water lilies  
watching sharply the dangers of predators  
while little ones practising the hunting game,

Silence broke by a melodious tone of a bird  
roaming over the near surface of the river  
Its long dark shadow swinging on the  
light blue dancing waves  
depicting the hard side of the future life challenges

I was trying on my best  
to equip you with all necessary skills  
to overcome future hindrances  
with love, care and affection  
It is a never ending spring like this river  
my dear daughter  
I believe, you will never ever forget  
even after my departure from you.

**J.Weerakkody**

The poem evokes strong fatherly love towards a daughter. The poem has used a simple diction and appropriate metaphors to convey the father's sentiment about a daughter.



## Stolen with a kiss

Hands play music on you  
A tear drop on thy cheek  
I stole it with a kiss  
**Bertholamuze Nisansala Dharmasena**

The poet recreates an intimate moment between lovers. The poet has effectively used Haiku structure for the purpose. The poem is noted for its brevity.

## Dearest autumn ...

In this wonderful evening in autumn  
I walked along  
in that flower meadow  
while searching for the aroma of the lilies  
I felt throughout my past  
I touched all the buds  
those who were to bloom  
but that aroma wasn't there

friendly wind came from somewhere  
there wasn't the aroma I was looking for  
but it brought the memory from far far away  
it brought a tear drop to my  
silent eyes...

after walking  
I sat beneath an oak tree  
it stands like a muted colleague  
when I feel the emptiness  
of my lonely life  
with the tears in my eyes  
sun gave a ray of hope  
which took that dark memories  
away in this dearest autumn

**Umesh Moramudali**



The poet skilfully expresses how the autumn's evening associates with memories of his life. It evokes melancholy memories of the past and the loneliness that the poem encounters. The poem is noted for short and effective lines and down-to-earth language.