

# Password

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today's test  
will be open book  
evening swallows

Don Wentworth

murmuration  
the absolute proves  
elastic

Jonathan Humphrey

## empower field mouse @ mile high

unlit  
(unit)

video  
(vireo)

J.D. Nelson

S c t e r  
a t e d mind  
chickadee  
lands on  
fencepost  
looks  
directly  
at me

Beth Gallovic

a female mallard  
tucks blue  
back into her wing—  
dimensions stretch and curl  
in the fabric of space-time

Juliet Wilson

cockeyed cuckoo  
with a broken spring  
the universe expands

Robert Witmer

raven moon the eye Odin gave away

Surashree Joshi

it's something to be like a mushroom and suddenly Jupiter

Matthew Markworth

sultry night  
above our bed  
a plastic jesus

Stephen Toft

a paperweight  
of sorts  
summer fly

paul m.

love  
impossibly  
stacked  
stones

Sondra Byrnes

but for the one in corner any living stone will do. Pines learn from pine

Johannes S.H. Bjerg

the dark where we walked as stars together gathering shells

Kat Lehmann

inconstant conversation with the waves asemic seaweed

David J. Kelly

plunge-dive of a tern  
how much room  
my breath takes

paul m.

Like a bald eagle I fly...  
past my bones...  
and become  
so chrysalis...  
(so milk understanding)

Stella Gleitsman



full moon—  
i touch one edge  
then the other

Ave Jeanne Ventresca

she says  
it's always midnight  
inside her cello

Stephen Toft

unsettled from sleep a ghost-latch opens

Ron C. Moss

on the tip of the tongue  
on the lip of the scale  
starlight

Cherie Hunter Day

glycyl nymphs fly nigh YHWH's plynth

Michael Nickels-Wisdom

stars  
provide everything  
lone fisherman

Roberta Beach Jacobson

environmental racism along with everything else

Debbie Strange

### **Copter Shot**

270 pilot whales  
beached on a sandbar  
in remote Macquarie  
Harbour on wild,  
wet, western  
coast of Tas-  
mania.

Now, what was the question?

Allan Lake

infinity...  
the baby bird opens its beak  
to a star

Jennifer Sutherland

outside the window frames a Rothko a raven

Kat Lehmann

until birdsong comes out of our cells  
morning glory blue

Michelle Tennison

basically it's old men cutting up yesterdays to make an apple talk

Johannes S.H. Bjerg

**rapid unscheduled disassembly**

I move thru the apples  
on a powdered tricycle

J.D. Nelson

which when ripe will certainly make up for the increase in rent

David Boyer

a violin  
much smaller than a violin,  
strawberry jam

Michael Nickels-Wisdom

kigo when there is no more drum  
machine

Mark Gilbert

syllable by syllable sweet persimmons

Marcie Wessels

a radish hangs  
from a balcony  
moonlit  
evening  
a persimmon aglow  
in a leafless tree

Bob Lucky

inside the boy's  
mango  
the train to Calcutta

Robert Hirschfield

which makes it easier for the sun to carry them by their feet

David Boyer

after mass google maps suggests a shorter route

Joan Torres





old enough  
to help kill  
the lamb

onecloud

a blacksnake bit my mother  
what we never see  
suns itself

Michelle Tennison

The apparition of these cattle in the field;  
Moonlight on a barbed-wire fence.

Bob Lucky

### **The Wild Ones**

S t o r m i n g  
the woods  
to hunt down  
the wild,  
w e b e c a m e  
t h e w i l d o n e s  
to the wary hooves.

Anayo Dioha

**erosion (the myrrh)**

boar slippery contrite  
mountain reddish

*silent forms*

J.D. Nelson

after the funeral,  
someone's cassowary  
waiting in the fridge

Michael Nickels-Wisdom

blanket  
and chair

window

maple  
tree

wren

un  
wanting

all  
is

and well

the every  
thing

here

Melanie Green

songbird in the deadpan of winter

Matthew Markworth

plenty of verbs to go around the bush

Randy Brooks

slippers by the sound of it a well-worn metaphor

Michele Root-Bernstein

uni-verse

the single song  
sung  
by god  
as she  
brings us  
into existence

Dennis Hawkins

bursting with rain godless clouds

Roberta Beach Jacobson

night slips into the mind as lorem ipsum

Cherie Hunter Day

hints of fog in her sentence  
fragments

Roberta Beach Jacobson

he hadn't drawn a blank until

Peter Jastermsky



America the ~~land~~  
land where  
my fathers lied

Michele Root-Bernstein

4 or more people  
between semantics and pragmatics  
must be killed

Julie Schwerin

poison-ivy;  
a family visit  
reinvented as a flower

John Grey

a world  
of one tone  
twins  
with  
freckles  
everciduous  
under cover  
of  
tulips

Alan Summers

## **Easterly**

Under  
a black anvil cloud  
dawn nudges:  
strange that  
the color of petals  
lifts such darkness.

Ann Boaden

one daylily  
flame bold in the  
spark of summer till  
night's deep blooms

Philippa Trelford

in the midst of village flood sun-soaked waterlilies

Douglas J. Lanzo

## **Bat**

rose  
in the dusk  
the first stars  
folded into  
leather wings  
eaten in darkness  
it rains  
drops soft  
as mosquitoes

Jim Kacian

soldier's epitaph highly decorated with badges of lichen

Debbie Strange

she has gone out again  
planting snowdrops in mine fields

Phil Madden

white jellyfish out of the blue sky bombs over Gaza

Marcie Wessels

free trial of tears

Joan Torres

nIhIIsM

Julie Schwerin

sedition colors every sideshow

Cherie Hunter Day

folded into  
dimensional compost  
compass roses

Jonathan Humphrey

winter folding our house into a paper crane

Cherie Hunter Day

smudged postmark *the letter's excitement*

Mark Valentine

throwing a pot  
her hands formed  
out of the same clay

Jean LeBlanc

the art of the second art will acquire all previous possessions of the art of the first art

Michael Nickels-Wisdom

relationship  
relationship

Olivier Schopfer



she rains, she rains. I dream of metal flies coming home

Johannes S.H. Bjerg

## HERRINGBONE

**cloud**storm**cloud**  
m**cloud**tor**clouds**  
rm**cloud**o**cloudst**  
orm**cloud**loudsto  
torm**cloud**udstor  
storm**cloud**storm  
dstorm**lou**stormc  
**ud**storm**o**storm**cl**  
**oud**stormtorm**clo**  
**loud**stormrm**clou**  
**cloud**storm**cloud**  
m**cloud**tor**clouds**  
rm**cloud**o**cloudst**  
orm**cloud**loudsto  
torm**cloud**udstor  
storm**cloud**storm

Jim Kacian

## **A Handful for Autumn**

A rare warbler  
a keening train  
a dory

civilization  
rain  
a harbor

a made-up story

Sydney Lea

photograms  
coming down  
autumn

Donna Fleischer

fen  
fern

lichen  
tree

uplift  
and

root

pen  
in hand

rain  
call

all

is  
not

hurry

Melanie Green

*uisce beatha*    every breath light as a fada

David J. Kelly

a dawn meditation you could drink the wine that moves you

Dan Schwerin

arbor vitae mortuus est

Charles Trumbull

## Fall

In sky  
gray as dove song  
trees burn.  
Ivy flames  
climb oak.  
Red leaves  
cup  
one  
cool  
blue  
mushroom.

Ann Boaden

fir  
st fern f  
ading  
into  
the pri  
mal

Kat Lehmann

*For Benjamin Fondane*  
that we're all given faces the Holocaust poet

Dan Schwerin

af ter rain  
the b lack  
top jig  
s awed  
a s mirr ors

Susanna Rich

white teeth and the wind weaves through the trees

Kat Lehmann

a cold north wind  
my hammer misses the head of the nail

Jeff Burt

from the old maelström a new bestiary

Stefano d'Andrea

## **Inlaid Bench, La Conner**

*A poem can contain the unsayable, but not say it.* (Stanley Kunitz)

The bench  
rests  
on a breezy  
height,

but faces  
ugliness  
across the river.

Yet the air is bracing—

Alison Jennings

On the Potomac,  
under an overweight moon,  
March winds conspire.

Kaz Campe



a  
gun

in  
every  
pot

shot  
prayer

Michele Root-Bernstein

streetlight gleam on the black cat gun

Michael Nickels-Wisdom

on Sundays we order  
the books we will never read,  
longingly, forever

Stephen Grant

that time  
we thought  
there was  
something  
but there  
wasn't  
and then  
we thought

let us  
pretend  
let us  
pretend

Bob Lucky

s  
kin  
skin  
whiskers  
ess  
s

Michael Dylan Welch

it wasn't the soup  
that broke my fever  
but the way you ladled  
heat upon the spoon

Dennis Hawkins

how pleasant  
to look at fog without  
a broken heart

Miriam Sagan

the fog doesn't  
clear there was no  
lake after all

Mark Gilbert

in fog,  
the white chair  
of there

Michael Nickels-Wisdom

muscled into  
a shallow hole  
non-native palm

paul m.

tundra colored bird seeks same

Michelle Tennison

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