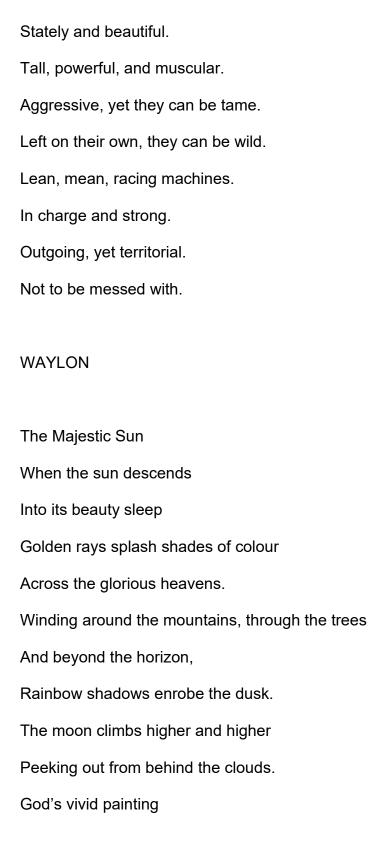
Stallion



Has fully brightened the night sky.

Above us, unfolds a blanket of stars.

A little sleep and some time to slumber

Before the sun once again awakens the world

In glamorous glow.

TANYA

Angered Flames

Flames crackle softly

And fire swiftly winds around comfortable logs

Gently kissing hickory bark

Tasting its seasoned rinds

Licking at its flesh

The blaze satisfies its hunger

By taking a bite here and there

Sparking, smoldering, flickering

Creating a vortex of heat

Belching arson, but its appetite is waning

Transforming weighty wood into soot

Chewing away until all that is left

Is a cold, grey skeleton, weak embers

Just a memory of warmth.

JANET

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The biting October wind

Moans mournfully, howls hauntingly

Whines like a witch

In the cracks the doors

Around the seals of the windows

Sprinkling crisp leaves

Like a boy scattering his jacks

The frigid gusts raise the hair on my arms

Goosebumps making me long for warmth

Murmuring promises of cold weather

That is just around the corner.

CARLENE

Sandstorm

While exploring the Sahara desert

A violent sandstorm spins vigorously

Charging towards me like a rodeo-trained bronc

Aching to plow me over

Powerfully closing in

Swirling and whirling wildly

Slamming forcefully into me

Each individual grain of sand

Impaling my fragile cheeks

Like shards of broken glass

My exposed skin erupts in pain

Leaving me lying; beaten up in the sand.

Still silent, waiting for the next squall

... but it finally loses interest in blowing

Seeing as it has no one to chase after.

ANNIE

In Front of the Flames

Scarlet glowing flames

Crackling with gleaming sparks

Providing cozy warmth

Hugging like an invisible blanket.

Reddening tender cheeks

Warming hearts and toes

The silent popping and sizzling

A language only the fire understands

The red-hot glow warms the feet

And sends serenity sliding up my spine

Drawing me away from harm

Insulating me in a world of my own

In front of the fire I sit

While the snow trickles silently from the sky

DARREN