

American Life In Poetry

Simple, Direct, Effective Language

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

When a poem has a strong story to tell, the simplest and most direct language is often the best choice because the poet may not want literary effects to get in the way of the message. Here's a good example of straightforward language used to maximum effectiveness by Jeanie Greensfelder, who lives in California.

SIXTH GRADE

We didn't like each other,
but Lynn's mother had died,
and my father had died.
Lynn's father didn't know how to talk to her,
my mother didn't know how to talk to me,
and Lynn and I didn't know how to talk either.
A secret game drew us close:
we took turns being the prisoner,
who stood, hands held behind her back,
while the captor, using an imaginary bow,
shot arrow after arrow after arrow
into the prisoner's heart.

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There Is A Difference Between Highway And Off-Road Travel

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:
Greetings from Doha, Qatar. Six months ago, I bought a used 2006 Hummer H3 (now with 115,000 miles), which my wife uses five days a week to take our son to school. Traffic in Doha is notoriously bad (and a bit dangerous), so these daily school runs are pretty stressful. But we may have a safety valve. We can trim the commute (and avoid a lot of traffic) by taking a three-mile off-road stretch. This isn't boulder-strewn terrain, it's just mildly rocky dirt. I encourage my wife to take the H3 on this stretch at every opportunity — but she's concerned that 60 off-road miles every week (to and from school twice a day, five days a week) is too much for the car and it will "fall apart" prematurely. We're only going to be in Doha for another 18 months, and she wants the vehicle to last at least that long. I say it's a Hummer — and that this kind of driving is a Hummer's existential purpose. I don't see the car falling apart for several years to come. What do you guys say? Can she take our H3 off-road on every school run? — **Mike**

TOM: I think the real problem is ride quality in the Hummer, Mike. She's bouncing off the seat on that dirt road, banging her head against the dome light. If you had spent a little more and bought her a Cadillac Escalade, you wouldn't be hearing these complaints.

RAY: You're actually both right about the H3, though. Sometimes when you see a used-car ad, the seller will say something like "150,000 mostly highway miles." Why does he say that?



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TOM: So he can unload his rattletrap of a car. Mike probably will say the same thing when he sells this Hummer.

RAY: Sure. But it's well known that smooth highway miles take less of a toll on the car than bumpy, pothole-en-crusted city miles.

TOM: When you bounce the car up and down off the road continually (which is what you're doing on a rocky dirt road), you cause certain parts to wear out more quickly — notably, the front suspension components.

RAY: Things like the tires, the struts, the springs, the ball joints, the tie rods, the stabilizer links, the steering rack and all the bushings and couplings down there get pounded when you drive that way. Those parts will wear out sooner than they would have otherwise. Even on a Hummer.

TOM: All that shaking and bouncing also causes other stuff in the truck to "loosen up." This ultimately results in what we call "rattletrap syndrome," where even if stuff is still working, the truck sounds and feels like it's falling apart because it rattles and clanks down the road, even on pavement.

RAY: In truth, it's impossible for us to know if something major will break in the next 18 months, whether you take that shortcut or not. The car has a lot of miles on it. And who knows if it would have happened anyway? All we know for certain is that the chance of having to replace suspension components goes up when you move from paved roads to rocky dirt roads.

TOM: If it were me, I'd take my chances. The H3 is based on Chevrolet's small pickup truck, the Colorado. So while it's not super heavy-duty (or unbearable to drive) like a real Hummer, it's based on a truck chassis, and should be able to take a reasonable amount of punishment.

RAY: And based on what you say, the shortcut would save your wife time and stress, and might even be safer, since it's less heavily trafficked.

TOM: I agree, as long as your wife has good cellphone service that works out there. If she ever were to break down, or just get a flat tire, you'd want her to be able to easily and reliably call for help. And make sure she has a broomstick or something in the car, so she can fend off an angry band of camels if necessary. Good luck, Mike.

Don't get stuck with a lemon. Be an informed shopper. Read Tom and Ray's guide "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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SCHOLASTICS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

VERMILION — Brendan Johnson, the chief federal law enforcement officer for the state of South Dakota, was the keynote speaker at the 127th Spring Commencement at the University of South Dakota on Saturday, May 10.

Johnson, a 1998 USD graduate with a B.S. degree in history and political science, was nominated by President Barack Obama as the 40th United States Attorney for the District of South Dakota and was confirmed unanimously by the United States Senate on Oct. 15, 2009. As South Dakota's chief federal law enforcement officer, he supervises the prosecution of all federal crimes and the litigation of civil matters in which the United States government has an interest. Prior to being confirmed as U.S. Attorney for South Dakota, Johnson was a partner at Johnson, LLP; and a state prosecutor in the Minnehaha County State's Attorney Office. He graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 2001. Johnson and his wife, Jana, are the parents of four children.

In addition to Johnson's keynote address, USD conferred degrees to more than 1,200 candidates at the DakotaDome. The 127th Spring Commencement ceremony also honored distinguished faculty from the 2013-14 academic year, including recipients of the Belbas-Larson Award for Excellence in Teaching; the Richard and Sharon Cutler Awards in Liberal Arts; the John Wesley Jackson Memorial Award presented to the outstanding professor of law; and the College of Fine Arts Distinguished Professor Award.

A list of area degree recipients and their hometowns:

NEBRASKA

- Crofton — Kelsey Rae Boelter, Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting; Aron Bradley Merchen, Doctor of Medicine; Kristin Ann Steffen, Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology & Sport Science; Molly Darlene Van Heek, Master of Public Administration; Michelle Joy Weidner-Jordan, Master of Science, Administrative Studies;
- Fordyce — Rachel Rose Bollich, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences;
- Hartington — Cassandra Kay Howey, Associate of Science, Nursing; Ronda Mayrose, Associate of Science, Nursing;
- Newcastle — Courtney Sue Addison, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education, Special Education;
- Ponca — Miranda Renee Braun, Doctor of Physical Therapy; Heather Marie Rush, Doctor of Physical Therapy;
- Verdigris — McKenzie Sue Liska, Bachelor of Arts, Contemporary Media and Journalism;

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Alcester — Molly Katherine Buum, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art;
- Armour — Michael John Nor, Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance; Courtney Ann Ziebart, Associate of Science, Nursing;
- Avon — Earvin Lee Archambeau, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Michaela Mae Meiers, Bachelor of Business Administration, Management; Matthew Alan Yost, Master of Arts, Educational Administration;
- Beresford — Leah Marie Akland, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences; Krislyn Jo Carlson, Doctor of Education, Curriculum & Instruction; Sarah Beth Heerd, Master of Arts, Counseling & Psychology in Education; Ashley Kay Huber, Bachelor of Science, Dental Hygiene; Anna Mae Limoges, Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice; Aaron Patrick Loughheed, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice; Andrew John Paulsen, Master of Public Administration; Robin Wiebers, Doctor of Education, Curriculum & Instruction;
- Centerville — Timothy Norling, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences;
- Dakota Dunes — Nicole JoLynn Funck, Master of Professional Accountancy; Tam T. Ho, Bachelor of Science, Chemistry; Chandler Alexandra Hunt, Bachelor of Science, Biology, Psychology; Emily Susan Lundgren, Master of Arts, English; Mary K Okine, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Ian Matthew Thompson, Bachelor of Science, Earth Science;

- Dimock — Alison Marie Freidel, Bachelor of Science, Dental Hygiene; Ann Elizabeth Jacobsen, Master of Business Administration;
- Elk Point — Melissa Lea Bisenius, Specialist in Education, Educational Administration; Kelsie Jo Carter, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Kelsie Jo Carter, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art; Emily Patricia Connelly, Bachelor of Science, Dental Hygiene; Derrick Robert DeBuhr, Bachelor of Business Administration, Health Services Administration; Kyle Thomas Hanson, Juris Doctor; Marica Rupp, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education; Benjamin Joseph Staum, Bachelor of Science, Biology;
- Freeman — Audrey Renae Graber, Bachelor of Arts, Spanish; Audrey Renae Graber, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education; Jennifer Marie Hora, Associate of Science, Nursing; Brooke Erin Elizabeth Page, Bachelor of Science, Social Work;
- Gayville — Christina Jo Carda, Associate of Science, Nursing;
- Hurley — Jasmyn Sophia Caroline Hansen, Associate of Science, Nursing; Kayla Michelle Norenberg, Doctor of Medicine; Heather Leigh White, Master of Business Administration;
- Jefferson — Daniel Victor Irwin, Doctor of Medicine; Amber Jo Nearman, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences; David Christian Stoops, Juris Doctor; David Christian Stoops, Master of Arts, Political Science;
- Marion — Samantha Goossen, Bachelor of Science, Dental Hygiene; Megan Kayser, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Nursing; Jesse Adam Kunkel, Bachelor of Science, Biology; Cara Elaine Schardin, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology; Rachel R. Schmidt, Bachelor of Science, Political Science;
- Menno — William Floyd Massey, Bachelor of Science, Mathematics; Rachael Massey, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education, Special Education; Heidi Jo Walter, Bachelor of Business Administration, Management; Heidi Jo Walter, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences; Chandra Joy van Zyl, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education, Special Education;

- North Sioux City — Kelly Lynn Delaney, Doctor of Medicine; Molly Elizabeth Long, Bachelor of Arts, Spanish and Bachelor of Science, Biology; Alexandra Jo Ortiz, Master of Public Administration, Stacey Lynn Langley, Bachelor of Science, Social Work;
- Parker — Meghan Ann Bartos, Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting; Melissa Marie Menning, Bachelor of Science, Dental Hygiene;
- Parkston — Morgan Ashley Bialas, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Alena Diann Laber, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences; Eric Thury, Bachelor of Science, Economics;
- Pickstown — Jordan Dvorak, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences;
- Platte — Jessica Lynn Duffy, Associate of Science, Nursing; Shane Michael Hirt, Bachelor of Science in Education, History Education; Andrea Kuipers, Doctor of Physical Therapy;
- Scotland — Bryce Vincent Ab-bink, Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing; Carolyn May Dennis, Associate of Science, Nursing; Michael James Kronaizl, Bachelor of Science, Psychology;
- Springfield — McKenzie Marie Dvoracek, Doctor of Physical Therapy;
- Tabor — Abby Laine Einrem, Bachelor of Science, Communication Studies; Sara Ann Marie Holec, Bachelor of Science, Biology;
- Tripp — Zachariah David Dicus, Master of Science, Computer Science;

- Tyndall — Bryan Adams, Bachelor of Science, Biology; Austin Matthew Koch, Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology & Sport Science; Megan Susanna Marie Meyer, Bachelor of Science in Education, History Education, Special Education; Marcus Jay Tjeerdsm, Bachelor of Science, Biology;

- Vermillion — Hillary Rose Ahmed, Bachelor of Arts, English; Gregory David Anderson, Bachelor of Science in Education, History Education; Samantha Viola-Faye Bachelor, Bachelor of Arts, History; Molly Jane Beeman, Associate of Science, Nursing; Jennifer Diane Bellis, Doctor of Audiology; Darlene Marie Bogenpohl, Master of Science, Administrative Studies; Vanessa Lynn Brasel, Associate of Science, Nursing; Justin Edward Breske, Bachelor of Arts, History; John Carlton Dimock, Master of Arts, English; Steffani Elizabeth Nies Donahoe, Bachelor of Science, Chemistry; Haley Rose Enright, Associate of Science, Nursing; Kari Johanna Foss, Juris Doctor; AarA'n GarcA-a Navarro, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Anthropology; Sheila Kay Gestring, Master of Business Administration; Nathan D. Glanzer, Bachelor of Science, Computer Science; Anthony James Graham, Master of Science, Administrative Studies; Amber Brooke Groh, Master of Arts, Educational Administration; Holly Irwin, Bachelor of Arts, English; Jenny L. James, Doctor of Physical Therapy; Brandy Kay Johnson, Associate of Science, Nursing; Ellen Loiseau Kennedy, Associate of Science, Nursing; Ryan Curtis Kost, Bachelor of Business Administration, Health Services Administration; Paula J. Krier, Associate of Science, Nursing; Andrew Kronaizl, Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing; Lacey Ann Leichtnam, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Shuai Li, Master of Science, Computer Science; Aaron Jay Mayer, Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology; Jacob Calvin McBride, Bachelor of Arts, Contemporary Media & Journalism; Nancy Jean McQuistan, Associate of Science, Nursing; Catherine Mitchell, Doctor of Medicine; Aaron C. Packard, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art; Emily Ann Pier, Juris Doctor; Heather Marie Pomerleau, Associate of Science, Nursing; Adam Gabriel Schimelfening, Bachelor of Science, Biology, Earth Science; Krista Scholten, Master of Arts, English; Kristen Faye Schwasinger, Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting; Eva Lauren Soluk, Bachelor of Science, Biology; Aaron Richard Steele, Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance; Mathialakan Thavappiragasam, Master of Science, Computer Science; Skylar Wesley Tiaht, Bachelor of General Studies; Christine Tirabassi, Master of Arts, Psychology; Roberta L. Turner, Master of Arts, English; Sandra Whitney Madeline Wilch Tweten, Master of Public Administration; Erik Ustad, Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance; Jade Van Kley, Bachelor of Science, Biology; Jerrid Lee Van Sloten, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education; Jennifer Renae Von Ehrwegen, Master of Arts, Communication; Erica Paige Wergin, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art; Martha Kay Wilharm, Doctor of Education, Curriculum & Instruction; Brion William Chute, Bachelor of Science, Contemporary Media & Journalism; Joseph Drake, Doctor of Physical Therapy;
- Viborg — Rebecca K. Anderson, Bachelor of Science, Social Work; Alyssa Ellen Kranning, Bachelor of Science, Communication Sciences & Disorders;
- Volin — Kari B. Jensen, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Nursing; Brittany Kay Johnson, Bachelor of Science in Education, History Education;

- Wagner — AnnMarie Jean Celis, Master of Arts, English; Jilanne Kay Doom, Bachelor of Arts, Contemporary Media & Journalism, Political Science; Vanessa J. Iverson, Master of Arts, Counseling & Psychology in Education;

- Yankton — Kassandra Kay-lanna-Klare Anderson, Bachelor of Science, Social Work; Eric David Aune, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Nursing; Justin Theron Buchman, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education; Gabrielle Rosanna Boudreau, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Gavin Scott Brandt, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education; Laurie A. Brenner, Master of Business Administration; Travis Brenner, Bachelor of Arts, Spanish; Travis Brenner, Bachelor of Science, Biology; Christine Jo Broders, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Brandi Rose Bue, Bachelor of Arts, Contemporary Media & Journalism; Jeremy Michael Cap, Bachelor of Science, Economics; Jerry R. Caton, Associate of Science, Nursing; Amy Chu, Bachelor of Business Administration, Management; Matthew Michael Cranny, Associate of Science, Nursing; Christopher Aron Dabney, Juris Doctor; Spencer Robert Ferrell, Bachelor of Science, Biology; Matthew Richard Frank, Doctor of Medicine; Kelsey Ann Grosshuesch, Bachelor of Science, Biology; Chance Thomas Hagemann, Bachelor of Arts, History; Daniel Gene Harts, Bachelor of Science, Chemistry; Benjamin Lee Hausman, Master of Arts, History; Timothy Joseph Healy, Bachelor of General Studies; Timothy Joseph Healy, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Nursing; Alex Hohenhaner, Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology & Sport Science; Tyler D. Hummel, Bachelor of Business Administration, Management; Kyler Clark Johnson, Juris Doctor; Chelsea Elizabeth Kathol, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art; Carissa Renae Kinsley, Associate of Science, Nursing; Sarah Klatt, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Nursing; James Kroon, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice; Kelly Joseph Leyden, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences; Jeb Thomas List, Doctor of Medicine; Patricia Megan McGlone, Specialist in Education, Counseling & Psychology in Education; Nicholas David Miller, Bachelor of Arts, Computer Science; Susan Muehlbeier, Master of Arts, Special Education; Heather Lynne Olson, Specialist in Education, Educational Administration; Courtney Evelynne Plath, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education; Brendan Fox Pons, Juris Doctor; Hayley Nicole Ridgway, Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice; Kristen Lee Saylor, Associate of Science, Nursing; Kim Marie Schroeder, Doctor of Physical Therapy; Reanna K. Schultz, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Art; Cody Joseph Silvernail, Bachelor of Science, Medical Laboratory Science; David Harold Somsen, Doctor of Medicine; Katie Frances Starzl, Bachelor of Science, Dental Hygiene; Brittany Jean Sudbeck, Bachelor of Arts, Spanish, English; Dylan Lee Tramp, Bachelor of Science, Economics; Kelsey Nicole Waiter, Bachelor of Arts, Psychology; Joshua Wallis, Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences; Nicholas Weinandt, Bachelor of Arts, Computer Science; Laurel Dawn Wek, Bachelor of Science, Psychology; Carissa Ann Wieseler, Bachelor of Science, Chemistry, Psychology; Emily Mary Rohmiller, Doctor of Physical Therapy

SDHC Board Awards Spring 2014 Grants

HOT SPRINGS — The South Dakota Humanities Council Board of Directors has awarded \$32,000 in major grant funding to organizations around the state.

Major grant applications must involve humanities professionals and include the humanities as a central focus of the program for which funding is sought. The South Dakota Humanities Council is a statewide non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide humanities programming for South Dakotans.

The board of directors approved 13 major grants at its most recent board meeting, held in Hot Springs in April. Board members will confer again this fall to consider additional grant applications.

Major grant (more than \$1,000) applications for the fall cycle are due Oct. 15 for programs occurring after Dec. 1, while applications for mini grants (under \$1,000) are being accepted through the end of October.

Applications can be found at <http://www.sdhumanities.org/grants.htm>

The following area organizations have received South Dakota Humanities Council funding for programming occurring after May 1:

- University of South Dakota School of Law in Vermillion received \$2,400 for "Judicial Voices Project: Capturing Histories of the South Dakota Supreme Court on its 125th." The School of Law, the South Dakota Supreme Court and others will capture different "histories" of the court in 2014, which marks the 125th anniversary of South Dakota statehood. The materials will be available on a publicly accessible website, and copies of materials collected will be held by the USD Oral History Center and the South Dakota State Historical Society.

- Yankton Area Arts Association in Yankton received \$2,400 for "Rivers, Wings & Sky," an exhibit featuring mosaic paintings by Nancy Losacker and poetry by Norma Wilson. The grant will facilitate digital enhancement of the exhibit, which will be displayed Oct. 17-Nov. 18 at the GAR Gallery in Yankton and March 20-May 2 at the Rapid City Dahl Arts Center's Shaver Gallery.

Visit <http://www.sdhumanities.org/grants.htm> for more information about applying for grants from the South Dakota Humanities Council.

Election Signs Not Allowed In Right-Of-Way

PIERRE — The South Dakota Department of Transportation reminds the public that political campaign and ballot-issue signs cannot be placed on state highway rights of way.

"With the general election coming up, election signs are showing up along the state's roadways," says Bill Nevin of the DOT Office of Legal Counsel. "We're asking everyone to pay attention to where they put the signs and make sure they are outside of the rights of way and in locations that will not create safety hazards or distract motorists."

The use of right of way is reserved for official highway signage. All signs in the right of way that are not required for traffic control, as authorized by law (SDCL 31-28-14), are prohibited and will be removed. That includes both candidate and ballot-issue signs.

Municipal ordinances regulating placement and removal of campaign signs within towns and cities do not have precedence over state jurisdiction and supervision of state highway rights of way within municipalities.

Senior Citizens: Please Join Us For Coffee, Cookies, Conversation and FREE BINGO
Thursday, May 15th • 2PM ~ West Bldg.
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