

CORTLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY ARTS CHALLENGE

WRITING ENTRIES

POETRY

- Life in the Balance** by Nancy Dickerson.....1
This poem balances itself in form and in subject – between high and low, mundane and marvelous, joyful and despairing, living and dying. Moments of balancing are often those that take our breath away.
- The Cyclist** by Laurie Gosse2
Three-Part Poetry - these works detail and examine the symbolism of life and how we move within it. Each individual needs a sort of balance in order to move forward, to be transported towards goals and dreams. How we do that depends largely upon our support system or lack thereof.
- Disequilibrium** by Jim Hopkins.....3
The poem “Disequilibrium” depicts how important it is to maintain balance – and imbalance – in our lives and communities.
- Risky Business** by Frank Kelly4
The subject has trouble with balance due to his poor health. But he chooses to live in a second-floor apartment – balancing the risks against the benefits.
- Balance** by Cecile Swift Lippitt.....5
The poem utilizes the teeter totter to depict balance. On a deeper level, Mary Ellen’s friendship brought balance to my life, and mine to hers. She was adventurous while I was cautious. She was gregarious while I was shy.
- Balancing Act** by John E. Lutz.....6
People can be timid – afraid to step out or get on a limb. Failure might follow, yes, but trying and not succeeding provides a learning experience. However, trying and being successful can be fun and rewarding. Readers of this poem are encouraged to step out and “get in the dance.”
- All for Love** by Beth MacRae7
John Dryden knew--hanging too long in the balance is antipathetic to love.
- Balance** by Marian Strang.....8
Balancing is going on everywhere! Instances of it working are infinite; this poem highlights only a few of them. We need to open our eyes and appreciate its importance in our lives - it truly makes the world go ‘round!
- High-Wire Walkers of 1904** by Martin A. Sweeney.....9
This poem was inspired by a photo of a Homer Academy classroom filled with children from families employed by Sig Sautelle’s Circus. The poem reveals a parallel between an old-time circus performer’s need for balance and the desire for equilibrium in the life that is part of the overall human condition.

PROSE

Maria's Walk by Meghan Aagaard.....10

Italian-born Maria Spelterini balanced her way across the Niagara River gorge in 1876. Imagining how Maria must have felt -- performing such a dangerous stunt -- made me realize all of the ways we balance our inner selves with our outer selves in small and extraordinary ways.

A Minor Imbalance by Alexandria Faulkenbury.....11

Ellen Simms walks home alone on a dark and stormy night. Along the way, she confronts ghosts, both real and imagined, in an effort to regain balance in her life.

The House Tree by Lynn Olcott13

Most aspects of our daily lives are rigidly assigned to indoor or outdoor spaces. I am using the short story format and the dignity of trees to offer a peaceful, integral balance for our indoor/outdoor lives.

Hanging in the Balance by Jim Weiss.....15

DRAMA: This play can be read on our website at CortlandArtsChallenge.org

Saber Dance by Greg Moller

Saber Dance, an extremely brief play by Greg Moller, is a comedic glimpse into one woman's life. Anne is the working mother of three, wife of one, master of none. We see her for a spare few moments, just as the intricate inner workings of her life collide with one another, sending her world sprawling out of balance.