

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Villanelle – J.J. Locke

This is a workshop (or series of three workshops) that introduces students to the villanelle. The villanelle structure is explained, examples are given, and students are encouraged to write the form of poetry that Dylan Thomas made famous in his poem, “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night”.

Workshop leader J.J. Locke is a poet, freelance journalist, and social and environmental activist. His first book of poetry, *Freedom's Narrow Window*, was published in 2004. Here follows a sample of J.J. Locke's work, published in **Quills Canadian Poetry Magazine (2006)**:

Petrarch, Petrarque, Petrarka*

Your life is sketched in charcoal so blurry
Your poems painted, your life dissected
Why are able men always in a hurry?

At Fontaine de Vaucluse squirrels scurry
Tourists run like they're rabies infected
Your life is sketched in charcoal so blurry.

"Lauded" you relished, rarely did worry
Poet laureate you were selected
Why are able men always in a hurry?

A blizzard of sonnets inked in a flurry
Every hair of your life close inspected
Your life is sketched in charcoal so blurry.

In secret you loved, loved a mystery
Your liaisons went well undetected
Why are able men always in a hurry?

As I draw your life, brief in summary
I know your myth is firmly protected
Your life is sketched in charcoal so blurry
Why are able men always in a hurry?

Italian poet Francesco Petrarka(1304-1374) wrote many of his famous sonnets at Fontaine de Vaucluse in southern France.

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