



*John takes a look at Life via Poems*

# THOUGHTS from JOHN



*There is a poet in all of us.*

# ***Contents***

<b>You Can Survive and Reach for that Star-----</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Life's Prayer-----</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>PREFACE-----</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>A Day At Work-----</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Another Chance-----</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Big Blue-----</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Blessings-----</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Close to Heaven-----</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Daddy-----</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Emotional Rule-----</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Great Life-----</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Growing up-----</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>HEALING-----</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Hope-----</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>It's Time-----</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>John in the Pond-----</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>JENNY-----</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Life on Earth-----</b>	<b>24</b>

<b>Life's Highway-----</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Memories-----</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>MIND FOOD-----</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Mom-----</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>MUSIC LIFE-----</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>MY OLD VAN-----</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>New Business-----</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Off to the Mall-----</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Patience -----</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Pear Tree-----</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Reach From The Grave -----</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Rope Climbing -----</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Sharing -----</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Soul Medicine-----</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>The Child -----</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>THOUGHTS -----</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Time -----</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>The Time is Now-----</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>VIP-----</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Volunteer -----</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>"What Then" -----</b>	<b>45</b>

<b>Seeds in the brain -----</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>A New RV-----</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>WORDS -----</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>GOOD NIGHT-----</b>	<b>49</b>



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **You Can Survive and Reach for that Star**

The basic premise is, we all are equal. The fact is, we all do not start at the same place in life. Some are given a head start and some must work a little harder and smarter to catch up. But that's O. K. That is just the way it is. For those of us that weren't born with a silver spoon in our mouth or may have had a dysfunctional family or been placed at a disadvantage at the starting gate it is time to get over the pity party and get in the race. It is time to stop and take inventory of what we have to work with, what we need to reach the finish line in attaining our goal or star we are reaching for. But first each individual must define that goal or star they want to obtain. Sounds easy and it is. However, it does require some time, thought and above all honesty with yourself. You must understand that what you want you may get and that normally means you won't get something else. So be careful when you plan your goals in life.

Define what is really important to you and separate the nice to have or do things. They are secondary to your real goals. You must write down all your goals and prioritize them. Always work on the top goal first and stick to it, the fact you made it your top priority says no time or effort will be expended on the second, third, or forth goals until you have reached your first goal. This first goal will more than likely have stepping stones or sub goals required to complete your first goal. By separating the sub goals out the task of attaining your first goal becomes much more attainable. They too must be prioritized and checked off as they are completed.

The rush of ecstasy you feel as you check off each of the sub goals will amaze you. You gain the confidence that you must have to keep on track. This is not to imply that the road will be straight and smooth, it probably will not. As a matter of fact if it is too easy you set your sights too low for your first goal, over coming the obstacles or road blocks is half the fun and makes the goal appreciated when attained. So never give up on what's the top or first goal in your life. By the way some folks call the top goal your life's mission and classify it as a "mission statement" To attain that goal requires some study reading and listing on your part.

You probably have been told or heard that experience is the best teacher. I will tell you that is a great big lie. Experience is the most expensive and time consuming way to learn anything. Using other people's success and failure will put you years and dollars ahead of the pack. Taking advantage of knowledge is the way smart people get ahead and reach their goals in record time. I will tell you.

Now this is not to imply that you cannot put a slightly different spin on things or change the parody in your mind. On the contrary I highly recommend you do. When you do think it through and then beat it against others experience. All in all what I am suggesting to you



## *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

is not easy. However, it really isn't that hard either. The bottom line is we must take time, make time or allocate time to do it. Most people spend more time and effort planning a two week vacation than they do planning their life. Stop for a second and think about the last time you planned your own life and the tracking you put in place to see if you were really on track.

Successful people do these, the question is have or do you? If not why not? Each of us is allocated a given amount of time in life. We make choices, not decisions. Each choice provides for something we will get or do and also something we won't get or do. Remember only you can make the choice. This should be completely understood..

Let me give you an example. Let's say based on what you feel an hour of your time is really worth. Multiply by  $24 \times 365 \times 75$  x that dollar amount of your time being worth. Now divide that number by 75. The result is a years worth of dollars in your life. Now multiply your age by that number. This is how much you have already spent. Now subtract that number from the first number. This may represent the rest of your life's bank account. The question is how you will spend it? Now we are back to choices you will make, and how you plan your life. This is not to say your bank account could not go to zero tomorrow and you die. It can also accumulate some interest, depending on your choices, and you could live to be 100 or more.

If you have actually spent time to do the exercise above, I am sure you were surprised and will think important things out a bit more in the future. If not you probably didn't understand or really don't care about yourself.

The example provided was to get us to stop and think a little more about our life. My hope is it did, and also it helped you in setting goals and priorities. Always remember that you never see a hearse pulling a U'Haul-It trailer. All things accumulated in this life stays here on this earth. This included physical things and the good and bad memories we leave with others.

The Reference Book I use instructs me to help, share and love others. Friend, my hope for you is you have found an appropriate reference book to guide you through your life also. There is good in the worst of us and bad in the best of us. However, we are all important. Hopefully we can all grow the good in all of us each day.



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

*To this end the following poem was written for us all*

## **Life's Prayer**

### **Life's Prayer**

**Great Spirit and Creator of Heaven and All  
Let me listen to you and not put up a wall.  
Give me the strength and courage each day  
to share and help others along their way.**

**May I learn from the old and the wise  
and be a good roll model in children's eyes.**

**Put the sunshine in my life and face,  
to reflect your love and time not waste.**

**Life on this earth is as brief as the firefly's light  
and there is only time to do what is just and right.**

**Let me not judge others by what they may do,  
until I have walked two weeks in their path too.**

**Make my speech soft as the wolf's fur,  
may it be as gentle as the cat's purr.**

**Let me walk as quietly as rabbits feet.**

**May I be a soaring eagle and not retreat,  
from things that are pure, just and right,  
through all my suns in day and moons at night.  
Oh great Spirit of sun, moon, wind, rain and all,**

**I beg of you to hear this souls burning call.**

**Prepare a place for this soul in your infinite love,  
for that time will surely come when its called above.**

**May I be humble and listen each day  
what you would have me do when I pray.**

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved

If we can all try to put into practice what this poem suggests, no doubt; this world will be a far better place for us all. Thank you for your time and enjoy life.

JHR



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## PREFACE



GRAYWOLF is a collection of thoughts and poems written by my husband, John Ryder, a part Cherokee Indian. The intent is to share his observations over the past 78 years. His work has been widely accepted as both meaningful and helpful to folks from Alaska to California and down to Florida and up to Maine, as well as several other countries around the world.

The wisdom and experience brought forth in his works should prove to enrich anyone's life that reads and feeds on the message presented.

John was born in the Tennessee mountains and has traveled the world. He is now retired with a heart problem and lives in North Carolina. However he continues to do volunteer work in the hospitals and is very active in church work. His free time is spent writing on his PC and enjoying his grandchildren.

If you find his work helpful and meaningful to you, you are encouraged to send a thank you of \$2.00 to \$5.00 to him at:

John Ryder Sr.  
2105 Adventure Trail  
Durham, NC 27703

**OR donate via PayPal to [OKTIP@aol.com](mailto:OKTIP@aol.com)**

**Your contribution to help assist in his work will be greatly appreciated.**

**May the one and only great spirit be with you always and guide you in all that you do.**



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## A Day At Work

### A Day At Work

The sun's coming up and my coffee I gotta get  
Yes to get these old bones a motivating and yet  
It's off to the bathroom and get ready for the day

Yea so I can get to my work and earn my pay  
A smile or two from friends as the day goes on

It sure will help me a lot, what can go wrong  
Two phones are ringing and someone at the door  
The boss wants to know if the paper work is done

It's only 8 o'clock and I'm on the run

Just on and on this whole day through

What in Heaven's name am I going to do

Finally it's 12 o'clock and time for lunch

Eat and talk business with the same old bunch

I wonder if I can make it till home I'm bound

At last in my safe place to find, I must turn around

Go back to the office for work that can't wait

It seems as if I'm indispensable, a word I hate

Don't mind doing what's needed and my fair share

But sometimes it seems as if management doesn't care

Finally its done and home on the bed

I lie in wonder if another way my family can be fed

Seems business today requires your soul

Heck, I'm only 36 and really feeling old



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

## Another Chance

### Another Chance

What is going to happen to this land  
If we don't work together and get things in hand?  
Has history been all for naught  
Why can't we learn what it has taught?  
It makes me wonder just how we'll pay,  
Will the great U.S. become another Pompei.  
Under tons of ash and molten rock  
Can the time be near and show on our clock?  
How can we guide other lands  
When our own country men have blood on their hands?  
While greed and drugs and crime abound  
Right here in our very own town.  
Where is the family guiding light  
To show the way both day and night?  
Oh Country men, where is the pride we once know,  
In our selves, our family and our country too?  
Have we forgotten what our God has said?  
Have we ignored what we have read?  
We all must once again get on our knees  
and ask our God to forgive our deeds.  
Pray for the guidance to do right  
and not wait until the missiles are in flight.  
Remove our anger and our hate  
long before it's too late.  
Show the love and understanding to all  
Before this great nation takes the fall.  
Respect must be earned, we have all been told,  
Look for the positive in others even if they seem cold.  
If we all stop and take a global look  
Maybe history will be kind in her book.  
Stop and think of those who have gone before  
To protect the freedom on our shore.  
Did they give their lives in vain  
Or is the whole country going insane?  
We still have a chance to turn it around  
And work together to let freedom abound.  
Let's all start today to do our part  
And show the world we still have heart.



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **Big Blue**

### **Big Blue**

I didn't get a raise, had a heart attack and almost died  
Company lost money, but a 3 million dollar bonus the CEO eyed  
As a matter of fact 200 million was given out  
To the VP, Directors and those with clout  
Their answer to the short fall of income  
Was to downsize and get rid of some  
Problem was many of the employees that went  
Were the very ones that worked to pay their rent  
And took a positive and long term look  
At where the company should be in the book  
Of new and future technology to grow  
The big shots couldn't steer and too lazy to row  
This titanic of a company almost sank in the deep  
Many big shots took a golden parachute without a peep  
This once strong company has now lost it's glamour  
The employee spirit has diminished in this clamor  
The MBA's from Harvard have done it again  
Destroyed the American dream of many, you can't win  
Greed seems to rule in all business today  
Only a few will make enough for bill's to pay  
And have a little left over to enjoy their life  
This is a bitter pill to swallow and tell the wife  
I'll tell you now and I'll tell you true  
You had better get your act together Big Blue  
Take a look at what upper management cost  
You had better share with the little guys before you're lost  
What tiny bit of respect and loyalty remains  
This is all too bad because nobody gains  
Watch the workers and dreamers do their part  
Learn to listen and follow through with your heart  
Don't look at other companies and their greed  
Share the good times, listen too, fill a need  
Don't continue to forget those that once made you great  
They are retired, growing old and just can't wait



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## Blessings

### Blessings

Take time each night before you pray  
to take pen in hand and record the blessings that day

Once a week read them all out loud

By yourself or in a family crowd

It will amaze you that's for sure

To see what God has done and is a cure

For those "down in the dumps" times on earth

If we could only see and hear them all from birth  
We all make mistakes and aren't worthy you know

But even in our darkest days we can grow

We must cherish those wonderful and good

Learn from bad experience as we should

You have heard, "count your blessings one by one"

As you do you'll find each week at least a ton

Not one living person that God did make

Will loose his love and care at the wake

Close your eyes and feel the warmth now

Relax your body, unclutter your mind that's how

Now in this state don't talk, breath and listen with your soul

Guidance and answers will flow as you let God take hold

Each day a better and happier person you will be

With a purer spirit, that's really the key

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

## Close to Heaven

### Close to Heaven

Watching the whales play in the Sea  
What a delightful place to be  
See the horses run in the field  
and the sail boats with a deep keel  
Looking up at the mountains so high  
And seeing all the birds in the sky  
The warm sun and a gentle sea breeze  
All this God has provided for man to please  
This my friend is yours to fill your mind  
It gives you a peaceful feeling and lets you unwind  
Of all the wonderful things I have found  
This one spot on earth will hold you bound  
To clear you mind and let your worth unfold  
If you are interested, you've been told  
This one place if you would like to go  
Its Half Moon Bay, just a few miles below  
On California Highway One towards Santa Cruz  
You should really try it sometime you can't loose  
I'll warn you now, you'll never be the same  
Cause it will change your mind to a better frame  
It will lift you up and fill your soul  
Just make you feel right and never be cold  
Those special moments of time you spend at this wonderful place  
Is as close to Heaven as you will get while part of the human race  
Just fly to San Francisco and rent a car  
Take California 101 South and don't go far  
On passed Burlingame till you see that big sign  
That says Half Moon Bay to the right, keep it in mind  
You just drive just a few scenic miles through the hills  
Past Pumpkin patches, the tall eucalyptus the air it fills  
As you enter the little town of Half Moon Bay  
Take a left on California One, That's the way  
So if its at all possible before you die  
Enjoy the wonders of this earth and sky



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

## Daddy

### Daddy

Most any male on the planet a father can be  
But it takes a real man to be a daddy you see  
A father may be good, bad or not even there

However, a true daddy is always around to care

A daddy will hold you close when fretting and walk the floor  
Talk to you so soft and gentle with a loving voice and more

A daddy always is there to build you up in so many ways  
You can be assured he is with you in all your nights and days

A daddy can make you feel better when you fall down  
He takes and shares so many wonders and places around

Yes, a daddy will listen to your ever word  
And teach you all he knows and good things heard  
He hurts when you hurt and offers kind help  
And when you stray he cries inside without a whelp

Yes, any boy can affect your birth

But only a man can be a daddy and prove his worth  
So many children today seem to have only a father

If you're lucky, your father's a daddy be you son or daughter  
Acknowledge your father but love your daddy

He'll guide you through life so you won't turn out ratty  
He'll always be the best friend you can know  
And stick by your side faithfully as you grow

You will always be very special to him

Until his very last breath and he crosses that rim

Let you be comforted for he's with his father and daddy above

And you're not alone for his Jesus will show you love

Be not afraid my child for you'll meet him again

You see your job now is other souls for Jesus to win

A daddy sometimes isn't your father for sure

He may be an uncle or grandfather that's loving and pure

If he taught you to say grace and pray each night

Taught you about his Jesus then you'll be all right

Praise God for the fathers that are a daddy too

Without them I wonder what a child would do



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **Emotional Rule**

### **"Emotional Rule"**

Well my friend have you ever been hot and not so cool  
Then you may need to know about the "Emotional Rule"  
First you gotta take a few deep breaths and just let it go  
With a relaxed body and mind you'll do better you know

I really must say when you get all tight and upset  
You'll make bad choices, choices you may regret  
Yes in a state of anger, hate or just plain old fear  
Your whole body reacts and the pipes draw near  
Then the heart speeds up, that wonderful pump  
Its gotta feed body parts oxygen, even your rump  
These little bitty platelets so smooth get real rough  
The adrenaline flows ready for battle, thinking tough  
Platelets stick to the walls of your arteries and such  
Comes along cholesterol even if you don't have much  
It sticks to those platelets and life is never the same  
Cause your heart will always have to work a bit more  
Now the blockage has started, like a partially closed door  
With each of these cycles you allow the body to go through  
Guaranteed will sooner or later cause real problems to you  
Yes you may want to consider being cool and playing it loose  
so those miles of pipes in your body will continue to be of use  
Take time and have some real fun  
Don't go through life always on the run  
Laughing, loving and living are part of it you know  
Take time to enjoy today and smile a lot before you go

© 1995 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

## Great Life

### Great Life

I have had a truly wonderful life  
Being very fortunate and finding a terrific wife  
She's been with me every step of the way  
Regardless of the problems facing us each day  
Also blessed with two fine children you see  
Grandchildren so precious, yes life's been good to me  
There have been times its really been rough  
But when they were, together we hung tough  
My only hope for the future of my children  
Is they too will work thru each day when its bewildering  
With outstanding support of each other  
Do not forget for a moment, you are sister and brother  
Never forget things their mother has done  
Day in and day out for the children each one  
Washing their clothes and fixing great food  
Teaching them to respect others and not be rude  
My beautiful wife has held us together  
In all life's trials and all kinds of weather  
Each of the family members owe her a lot  
Kind and gentle, even when money we had not  
My wife, your mother and a friend for sure  
Has made this life very easy to endure  
My children have made me proud as a father can be  
They each mean so much and have been the glue  
To get this family thru, every day something new  
Yes, we have traveled this country over  
Together we shared mountains, oceans and fields of clover  
My job required me to travel and roam  
around this country, but I knew what waited at home  
Was a wife and the kids I truly love  
So never look back when Jesus comes like a dove  
Never forget the wonderful times we have had  
I've had it all being a husband and a dad  
Be thankful for what we were allowed to share  
Having good times and knowing people that care  
You never have to cry for me  
Cause you should know, where I'll be  
Just keep on giving your best each day thru  
You are part of each other and I'm there too  
Just don't fret, worry and fear  
For I've had it all, you see dear.



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

## Growing up

### Growing up

As a young lad growing up in the hills of Tennessee

I never thought of other lands and going to sea

The biggest patch of water to me was Cherokee Lake

In my late teens and off to Sea on a Submarine I would take

To see the world and better understand

What a great country the USA around its land

We went to the Med and Caribbean too

Many people and sights, to me all were new

The Atlantic and in the North Atlantic's cold

Just frozen to the bone close to the North Pole

To protect our country from aggressors for sure

Could I ever get warm again, what's a cure

War games might be lots of fun

We kept those aggressors on the run

But it was great when the Captain would say

We've done our job, lets pull into port for a day

Walking around in France, England or Greece

Italy, Malta, Turkey or in the Town of Nice

Was truly a thrill for this kid from Tennessee

almost made it all worth it going to Sea

I wouldn't take any thing for the chance to go

But to be honest There is so much about the USA to know

Other Countries are nice and the people just fine

All of the wonders in the USA are on my mind

There's not one state in this Great Land

That I'd swap to take any other country in hand

We have so much right here you can't see it all

But it's sure fun trying we have a real ball

The irony of it is if you've been before

I'll guarantee the next time you'll see more

Constant change is all around us sure

Sometimes for better, sometimes not so pure

The long term trend seems to be right



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

even though those folks in Washington put up a fight  
How arrogant we are to think we affect this earth  
We might kill all the people but new species will birth  
The cock roach will always prevail I know  
Even if we error and the neutron bombs blow  
What happens to each person's life here  
May only turn out to be how others he held dear

© 1995 John H. Ryder 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **HEALING**

### **HEALING**

**It's time now that all humans should understand  
a wonderful healing spirit lives within every man.**

**With a positive attitude of both body and mind  
look to the future, learn to be caring and kind.**

**For the thinker of thoughts is surely our soul  
and has the power to unlock things yet untold.**

**The body responds to the stimulus in our thought.  
When the mind is not cluttered and we have fought  
those negative feelings and stress we may feel.**

**Let your soul guide you and allow the body to heal.**

**You should lighten up and be sure to laugh a lot  
and don't concern yourself for what you have not.**

**This does not mean we should not learn from the past,  
on the contrary, we must for this earthly life to last.**

**A sweet and eternal spirit surrounds us all, to assist our soul.  
It will guide us and help in many ways as we strive for our goal.**

**Be silent, Oh my mind and listen intently to the spirit,  
anger, hate and distrust must turn to love in order to hear it.**

**Remember, your doctor is trained in prognosis giving,  
however the state of your mind truly determines living.**

**Be kind, loving and understanding of all you may meet,  
follow the doctor's suggestions and you'll soon be on you feet.**

**However you choose is a choice you alone must make,  
should you allow your soul to be guided by the spirit and not wake.**

**Your life will live on through the others you have met  
your soul will live forever, there's no reason to fret.**



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **Hope**

### **Hope**

**In my bed at night I lay  
Talking to my Jesus as I pray  
For blessings received that day  
Thanking Him for the price he did pay  
As he traveled on this earth's highway.  
Knowing well when this body will decay  
But that's really OK  
I'll be with Jesus on that day  
He promised me that  
This life no more will be combat  
No more pain or struggle to survive  
In His presence I'll truly be alive  
The wonders of Heaven to comprehend  
When this earthly life will end  
Oh, Sweet Jesus as I cry  
Please guide me as I try  
To do what you want my life to be  
Until that hour your glory I will see**

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **It's Time**

### **It's Time**

Whenever I take time to check my weight  
I always wonder if it was something I ate  
    If I could loose some body fat  
    I'm sure I would be a cool cat  
    Maybe if my body would be like my billfold  
    And my billfold would store like my body I'm told  
        I could share with others in the future  
And spend many wonderful hours and grandkid's nurture.  
    But, alas, what a ham biscuit will do,  
    Just savor the flavor and some red eye gravy too  
        Or maybe a big helping of fries  
    I can see them now, right before my eyes  
        Maybe some scrambled eggs and cheese  
    Yes, I'd like some butter and bacon, if you please  
        A big glass of good old whole milk, too  
    No, I better not, just fruit and cereal, I'll make do  
        You know I've gotta start today  
        And learn to conserve my limited pay  
        To reverse this trend over many years  
    Or the doctor says I'll realize my worst fears.  
        Yes, I can do it and I'll start right now  
        No body wants to look like a big old cow.  
    I'll have money in the bank and time to spend it  
You see helping my grandkid's to adults is how to end it.

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **John in the Pond**

### **John in the Pond**

A precious little boy named John  
In a hurry and starting to walk fell in a pond  
Me-Me and Pop-Pop viewed it with horror  
Please, O Lord, let him have a tomorrow  
Pop-Pop ran as fast as the light  
Pulled him from the pond and held him tight  
There on the bank with little John OK  
We held a prayer meeting, How we did pray  
This young lad was scared and soaked, you see  
He realized what had happened and held his Me-Me  
This day will never be forgotten, bless his soul  
He's full of life and a wonder to behold  
**Me-Me's and Pop-Pop's prayer was answered for sure**  
**Proving that God answers when motives are pure**

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

JENNY

## JENNY

(6/18/94)

PC Applications Class 201 began Nineteen and Ninety four March nine  
The students were there and ready to go, I was happy this class was mine  
PC, DOS, Word Processing, Spreadsheets and Data Base I was to teach  
My goal was much more than computers, for the students I wanted to reach  
They were each different in their own way, each a very special person to me  
Bright eyes, excited and anxious to learn, just what was this thing called a PC  
It happened that very first night, a young lass named Jenny brightened our soul  
She was bubbly, fresh, and honest, no doubt Jenny would be on the honor roll  
Bright as a star, this young girl was, I just knew her contributions would be many  
To this old world she would freely help, giving of herself and not asking a penny  
Jenny was quick with her mind you could tell, there was an artist inside I know  
As the weeks went by and she worked in class, it was delightful to see her grow  
Something was not quite right, it appeared one night and it bothered me no end  
My prayers were with her, but I had to do more, just let her know I was her friend  
Jenny has so much to offer and is truly smart, not only that she has a really big heart  
Knowing and believing just how important, she just had to know before I would part  
May 18 was the last night of class, after grading the papers she made a high B  
The end of May, Jenny my prized student, my wife and grandson got to see  
In my plans were for her to visit with us on Leesville Road at some future date  
Sometimes it is so very hard to understand that we may never control our fate  
The pain was deep when today I was told, about my friend Jenny and she was gone  
For she was like a rose bud growing and getting ready to bloom, it seemed so wrong  
Could this be true or was it just a prank of some cruel persons twisted mind  
My thoughts were spinning , I must go to Wal Mart and see what I would find  
They answered my question, with what I just didn't want to hear  
The call received had been true, coworkers confirmed my worst fear  
It's now 2:00am this Sunday morning, tears flow, the words will not come  
To think of all that she touched along her way with her special beat of the drum  
Even though it was so brief this little girl provided us all a friendly smile each day  
Jenny, you were a special child to me, I will always remember you in each sun ray

Your friend John



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **Life on Earth**

### **Life on Earth**

**Life on this earth is only so brief  
It's full of joy, trials and grief  
Like a flash of lightening in a storm  
And then it's gone and loved ones morn  
If in that brief time you've made a dent  
To make things better for others, before you went  
An infinite and wonderful new life you'll enjoy  
For my Jesus promises every girl and boy  
All things will be opened to you and understood  
This is true my friend, He promised He would  
Provide light and understanding to all  
That followed His teachings and His call  
Profess His wonderful love and you will see  
That glorious day with Jesus you will be  
Guard your thoughts and your soul  
Always, be you young or old.  
Your road may be bumpy and rough  
Study His word, you'll see through the devil's fluff  
Because Satan will tempt you I have found  
But with Jesus in your heart he won't stick around  
Its a daily battle we all must fight  
Between eternal darkness or eternal lasting light**

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **Life's Highway**

### **Life's Highway**

As you pave your life's highway  
Try to make someone a brighter day  
For acts and words are your cement  
Time is the water, don't you regret  
Because as you know the water will evaporate  
The combination turns to stone, it won't wait  
When we pave our highway right  
We find it easier to sleep each night  
Just to know the our each days little strip  
Will make it better for someone on their trip  
Your life's road you pave may be short or long  
It will end, know your brother you didn't wrong  
So if you have some wet cement on the road  
Make it right with your brother, ease your load  
It will make your highway easier to travel  
And keep it from turning to dust and gravel  
Patch those ruts and soft spots very fast  
You'll find your road secure and will last  
The road you laid through out the years  
Will provide others a path and relieve fears  
It will be used over and over for those yet to come  
Try to make it a smooth ride, don't be a useless BUM



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

## Memories

### Memories

When I was growing up in Tennessee as a boy  
An old tobacco stick with a string was my toy  
It was my trusty old horse or a fine sword  
To ride the Old West or fight off a hoard  
Throughout the chicken yard I would ride and play  
Just having fun and pretending the whole day  
As time went by and it was off to school  
And learn the three R's; then to church for the Golden Rule  
Some of the teaching must have taken root and stuck  
Enough to fill a wheelbarrow or even a truck  
For off to college I just had to go  
To gain more of that knowledge if I was to grow  
Excited and dumbfounded about how little I knew  
A lot of midnight studying and soon I wore Blue  
Yep, off to the Navy and under the Sea  
An Electronics Enlisted Officer on a Submarine I was to be  
The Atlantic, Caribbean, Mediterranean and North Atlantic too  
Were a real challenge and visiting the seaports to me were new  
To this little sailor from the Tennessee Hills  
They are memories to me full of opportunity and frills  
Then one day while returning from a Med Cruise  
One of my shipmates told me of a girl and a number to use  
Why not to go to Richmond, call the girl, I could at least try  
After a brief meeting on the phone I know she caught my eye  
A few dates and some letters were passed in the mail  
We got together and I asked for her hand, Don't let me fail  
That was 36 years ago and wonderful years they have been  
She has not only been a wife and a mother, but my best friend  
Two wonderful children she gave me and raised them right  
It makes me proud and so happy she said yes that one night  
We all have memories and you have some I know  
So hold them with you when the going is tough, don't let them go  
Yes, we have wonderful grand kids for sure  
My bride is hard at work to keep their thoughts pure  
'Cause This old world has changed a lot  
I just couldn't bear to see them go to pot  
They won't I know for the love and teaching  
Both at home and in church, honor they are preaching



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## MIND FOOD

### MIND FOOD

Have you ever heard a whisper in the night  
Did it make you feel good or get you up tight  
As you gaze at the stars and moon so bright  
Did you ever wonder what a bird saw in flight  
Or just sailing over the earth like a kite  
  
Is your mind concentrating on things that are pure  
Or are you looking at things wrong and need a cure  
Life is so brief to be negative, worry and blame  
Control your thoughts, keep the mind in the right frame  
For when we don't exercise our mind each day  
It's a known fact, sooner or later we must pay  
Be kind and don't put yourself or others down  
Only those who do not are ready for the ground  
Others remember the things you've said and done  
And when it's all over who do you think will have won  
So keep your thoughts on a high plane  
And when you're gone, my friend, you'll remain  
In the hearts of all that you have touched along the way  
Give folks a smile and encourage them, be it sunny or rainy day

© 1994 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

Mom

## "Mom"

Many years ago I meet a lady named Mrs. "D"  
She was the mother of my lovely wife to be  
Three fine daughters she had raised  
Each she was proud of and each she praised  
Life not being easy for her, sometimes it was rough  
Hard working providing their needs, she was tough  
It didn't take long to find her real name was "Mom"  
Downing her family or a Democrat, you just set off a bomb  
"Mom" always has reminded me of a mother hen  
About the family or politics, you just couldn't win  
She looked at the world with a great deal of vision  
No doubt, bringing up her family was her true mission  
Washing a dish or cleaning about, she was always at bat  
Helping and teaching the family, she was always doing that  
Reading the Bible cover to cover, all the way though  
Several times each and every year she would do  
"Mom" was involved from dawn to dusk  
As if she stopped for a moment she would rust  
The Love that she showed each family member  
Is something we all will surely remember  
The grandchildren and great grandchildren too  
Were each precious to her, showing pride in this crew  
Shown through each time she spoke of them  
As if they were Kings or Queens, high on a rim  
A very few programs she'd watch on TV  
She was always there to listen, even to me  
Giving of her wisdom from many years on this earth  
To each of her children from their day of birth  
When she had done this and done her best  
Jesus called her and said, "Mom" its time to rest  
Thank you Dear Jesus for her long stay  
We needed her to guide us on our way  
"Mom" will never be forgotten by children and others  
She taught us how to work together as sisters and brothers  
Teaching us to never call anyone a fool  
Another bit of wisdom, one more golden rule  
There are pages and pages to be put down  
"Mom" doesn't need them, she's wearing a Crown



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

## MUSIC LIFE

### MUSIC LIFE

My good friend, music is where its at  
Just look around, no doubt about that  
    Nice and smooth it'll help you along  
    Nasty or hard can make you go wrong  
The right words though, can pick you up  
    Incorrectly used can make you corrupt  
    The mind is like a stereo tape recorder  
        It'll generate pictures too in a border  
In automatic it's working without even trying  
    Results will be yours, either happy or crying  
    Watch very carefully what your ear will hear  
        Concentrate on the things you do hold dear  
Speakers are going at home, in the car or on your head  
They will train your mind just like things you have read  
    I will tell you , my friend, it doesn't take long  
    The songs can change the path you may be on  
Now there's nothing wrong because the tempo's upbeat  
Times come when we get down, and up tempo's a treat  
    Upbeat can perk you up and get you going  
    You see those times are just part of growing  
    But your mind needs a real rest from that rush  
    Of all that information it receives from that push  
    It seems just a little loud and fast music is like salt  
    Adds to life's flavor and it's time to bring it to a halt  
You can find a good mixture of music that's right for you  
A little Nashville, mood, church, and a touch of rock too  
    But be careful, if the words are not real fine  
    You may be recording the Devil in your mind  
        If the music is suggestive and real tough  
        Later on your future can turn out rough  
    Listen for the music that makes you feel OK  
        Lifts you and your brother up that's what I say  
The jail is full of folks who listened to the wrong songs  
It twisted their minds, and contributed to their wrongs  
    You should understand when the songs are just right  
    They can bring you close to Heaven like a bird in flight  
The Music heard can pick you up or put you way down  
It can pick you up like a king or slam you to the ground



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **MY OLD VAN**

### **MY OLD VAN**

**When I started looking for something to drive  
I looked to my left at the stop light I'd arrived  
There it was conversion and all, it was really nice  
If they would just come down on the asking price?**

**Kicked the tires and talked a bit**

**Told the man it was a good fit**

**Offered him my best deal, thought he would flip  
He groaned, but said OK, he was going on a trip**

**In very short order I drove away**

**As a matter of fact, I drive it today**

**Better than 180 thousand on my Dodge Van**

**It will still giddy up go and keep oil in the pan**

**This old van has been all over the place**

**It may not be perky and not win a race**

**But it'll take you there and get you back**

**Carry a load with all the folks you can pack**

**Could use some work and a cleaning up too**

**But for now and a little while longer, it will do**

**It's for sure I know some day it'll give up and die**

**Probably going down the road that engine will fry**

**But for now it's got on some new shoes**

**Most everything is working, I see no clues**

**It doesn't have air and the tape player is gone**

**You see that's about all I can say is wrong**

**Please old Van, don't give up, give it your best**

**Cause when you stop moving, I'll put you to rest**



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## New Business

### New Business

Here I sit in a Burger Hut  
Feeling life's pressure and in a rut  
Just enough money for a burger and coffee too  
Thinking about just what I should do  
Gotta be a way to make some bread  
And have a little fun for I'm dead  
And all of a sudden it came to me  
With a little more effort what I could be  
What it was you'll never guess  
It would astound most folks more or less  
How could I have ever thought of it?  
Catching all the sneezes and storing in a pit  
Mix them up and color them just so  
Sell them by MLM, it would make some dough  
Market big ones and little ones for sure  
Red, blue, green and yellow they'd be pure  
Money in the bank from folks all around  
And the raw material is free in every town  
Wouldn't cost much to get a warehouse full  
I could box them up and advertise this bull  
Somebody would buy them I know  
So when they had a cold they wouldn't blow

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

## Off to the Mall

### Off to the Mall

When I get weary and down in the dumps  
Yea, when I am tired of just taking the lumps  
    I know how to get myself fixed for sure  
    I know how to pick me up and get a cure  
        Just jump in the car and off to the mall  
        No doubt the dumps will go, I'll have a ball  
        And just because I've got no money to use  
I've got lots of plastic to drive away the blues  
Even though I know there's a reckoning day  
And deep in my mind sooner or later I'll pay  
    It sure feels good going from store to store  
    I just can't help it and just buy more  
        Cause the sale is today and I saved a ton  
        It's as if some fantastic prize I've just won  
Maybe you too have experienced this feeling before  
    To just shop and shop till they close the door  
Then the bill comes and your stunned to say the least  
To realize just how much you spent on that mall feast  
    So you say to yourself I'll never do that again  
But later you find you're off to the mall with a friend  
The cycle goes on until you find yourself in so deep  
Some folks find it's too late and it's no good to weep  
    For all the things you bought are nothing but stuff  
And it's time to work like a dog, it may even get rough  
    And when you finally get all the bills paid off in full  
Don't take plastic to the mall when you feel that pull!



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **Patience**

### **Patience**

I wonder if you would mind and it would okay  
If Jesus had the patience we show others each day  
Thinking of the little people, children you know  
Do we take time to listen and be gentle as they grow  
Or are we so caught up in our own life  
And mostly ignore their questions and strife  
The sad thing about the whole thing can be  
They will treat others the same and mirror me  
Will it cause them to remember and be up tight  
If that happens they will be quick to anger and fight  
Who can we blame, no one but ourselves  
That's what they learned as the toys go on shelves  
It's only a very short window of time to teach  
Each new child the right way to go and goals to reach  
Let's all take the time to listen and understand  
What the little people try to tell us the best they can  
They are people too and trying so hard to find  
All the love and understanding and improve their mind  
Spanking must be reserved as a last resort  
Or the limited patience may draw the court  
To quick it happens and there out with a group  
With classmates throwing a ball through a hoop  
Learning how to get along with others, the right ones I hope  
Because when they stray or do bad, you know it's hard to cope



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## Pear Tree

### Pear Tree

**As the pear tree grows with branches and all  
It bears fruit so plentiful and if some does not fall  
It's branches bend and if all the fruit holds tight  
They feel the strain, but hold on with all their might  
If some fruit is not picked or branch provided support  
The branch will break, a fact I'll report  
It dies and is no more a part of the tree  
For all dead branches must be set free  
Even if it's propped up via external source  
It's all bent and warped by internal force  
The only part of the tree to survive  
Is the Center staff strait and tall, It's alive  
To each of us it's a great lesson to learn  
Grow your branches strong before you yearn  
To enjoy the fruits of your daily task  
Share those fruits with others when asked  
The branches of life will grow lasting and strong  
Your fruit will be sweeter you can't go wrong  
It's all about sharing and being a friend indeed  
Others will share with you when you're in need  
If we don't our branches will break and the fruit will rot  
Be thankful for your life's fruits and you'll want not**

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **Reach From The Grave**

### **Reach From The Grave**

My life's desire is while I'm here  
To let others know I hold them dear  
Can I in some positive manner show  
A few million folks the right way to go  
Are the things each day I have said and done  
Been very worthwhile to help others one by one  
Will the actions in my life reach from the grave  
Be of value to provide hope and let them be brave  
Showing the love and caring now, then when I die  
Let warm memories flow like a sun as looking at sky  
With each thing that I do will the memories be pure  
Can't a person's life continue in others and endure  
With this new age of networks, computers and such  
Will things we've done and written help others much  
Are the people yet unborn going to use this ability  
Will it provide them needed data and tranquillity  
There is not a problem or feeling that one has had  
That a million others haven't experienced and felt bad  
So we must use the history of those and find a way  
To get through it, take heed, and have a better day  
Our brief time on earth is full of change and things new  
But in reality they remain the same and the sky is still blue  
So treat every man, woman and child with tender care  
Always attempt to walk in their shoes and be very fair



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## Rope Climbing

### Rope Climbing

Never give up hope  
You're not at the end of your rope  
Just look around  
In any little town  
Many would love to take your place  
They are missing and a dream do chance  
Might be an eye, leg or an arm  
You can see they offer you no harm  
Could they be missing a family to love  
They keep on drawing strength from above  
Might be they don't have a place to live  
Or a dollar for food but still a smile they give  
Many through not fault of their own  
A company downsized and they lost a home  
Or born with a defective or missing part  
However, they hang on and give their heart  
To others they pass on their way  
Keeping hope that tomorrow's a better day  
Take a deep breath and work on a plan  
To help a brother in need, give a hand  
Find a little humor in each day  
Very quickly you'll see how it will pay  
You can climb back up that rope  
Keep on trying and never give up hope



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **Sharing**

### **Sharing**

It's not working any more  
Not for the working people, they are poor  
    Big boys at the top of the heap  
    Seem to be the only ones to reap  
I'll tell you now and I'll tell you true  
That day will come when everyone is through  
    The reward is coming to all for sure  
    When it's all over there isn't a cure  
    Ya better take a look at your roll  
Or you may never get to see Streets O'Gold  
    All we need to do is love and play fair  
    Show a little kindness and you care  
Don't keep on keeping and showing your greed  
    Share with others in their need  
There are things better than money and stuff  
    Too many good folks are having it rough

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **Soul Medicine**

### **Soul Medicine**

Humor is medicine for body and soul

It will surely keep you from growing old

Humor protects you from disease and such

It's free and doesn't take much

Humor can diffuse anger and hate

So go ahead; try it, please don't wait

Laugh at the little things in life.

It will reduce those things of strife

Those things that offer you stress

Will turn into fun and affect you less.

It's for sure your immune system will improve.

You'll gain energy and stay on the move.

Don't be so serious about your life

Spend those precious moments with husband or wife

Others remember people that made them feel good

And I know you can if only you would.

A good old deep down belly laugh a day

Will pick you up in a very special way

Make the world a better place for you and me

An open mind and a positive attitude is the key.

Just do it, before it's too late

And you meet St. Peter at the Gate.

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **The Child**

### **The Child**

Look at the sunshine in a child's face  
When the child is happy regardless of race  
John, Bill, Susan, Ann, Paige or whatever their name  
Black, white, red or yellow it's the same  
Full of life, energy and delightful hope  
They can make a toy with a stick or rope  
Money and the things adults seem to like  
Aren't as much fun as a homemade kite  
What lessons can we all learn  
From a happy child, that's what we yearn  
But, Oh how many times we fail to understand  
The needs of a little girl or little man  
Many times our answers are in haste  
And results in a sad expression, such a waste  
The children try so desperately to get through  
And in our adult wisdom we seem to do  
A covering of the sunshine they warm us with.  
Please listen to a child with imagination and heart  
For soon they will grow up and you will part  
Make sure you have learned and taught them right  
And they will always remember and hug you tight  
The love of a child you cannot buy  
They demand your time and in return will always try  
To respect you and your wishes for sure  
That child will grow to be honest, helpful and pure.



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

## THOUGHTS

### THOUGHTS

If other people could look in your mind  
Would they be surprised at what they'd find  
If they were to take a look at each little thought  
Would it be indicative of what you were taught  
Just letting someone take a peek inside  
Would it be OK, Is there nothing to hide  
Are pure thoughts and high goals in your head  
Or maybe a few that would be better off dead  
This is a good news, bad news story for sure  
Cause if you find some problem, here's a cure  
Play the bad thoughts back like a picture show  
Reprogram them all, erase some too, let them go  
Others and your body will see you in a better light  
You can now move forward and not be up tight  
The life you now live will be more fun  
Cause bad thoughts can be a loaded gun  
Each tick of the clock can be more productive  
And keep your life from being disruptive  
Every morning will bring a time to excel  
The Father has given, why worry about hell  
He will give you everything you may need  
Don't ignore Him, and grow up like a weed  
We've all been given some rules to follow  
If we don't get in the hog lot and wallow  
Deeds and thoughts will be recorded and read  
He taught how to keep pure thoughts in our head



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## **Time**

### **Time**

We only have now and nothing more  
Both the future and the past are another door  
It's how we use each moment in time  
That moves us forward and through the prime  
Each of us is allotted a special amount  
How we use it is what really will count.

We can shorten this time by action  
But never add to it even with traction.

If your life clock was to now stop  
Are you ready, what was your crop  
Was it beautiful like a flower

Or will it be wasted and non-existent power  
remember when others walk over you today

Sooner or later they will have to pay  
Kind, loving and caring is how to go

Knowing others you have helped and seen the glow  
In their hearts you'll always survive  
Within them you are sure to be alive

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

**The Time is Now**

## **The Time is Now**

**God is real**

**Here's the deal**

**He sent His Son**

**To die for everyone**

**His name was Jesus**

**He still lives in each of us**

**He died in an awful place to save us by His Grace**

**Though His tomb is empty space**

**He ascended to heaven to take his place**

**Oh the horror that shows on His face**

**The suffering he endured to save the Human race**

**The very people he loved did betray**

**This precious gift on that very day**

**His entire life on earth did convey**

**How we are to live and show others the way**

**For those that will listen, don't delay**

**Let His teachings through us display**

**Travel along life's highway**

**Listen to the Spirit and obey**

**Give your life to Jesus**

**He will show His love and use us**

**A special place he'll provide**

**And we'll live forever by His side**

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

VIP

## VIP

You too can be great  
You make the choice to determine your fate  
    Put high goals in your mind  
And you'll be surprised what you'll find  
Spend your time helping your fellow man  
    And your dreams will fall in your hand  
Be kind and gentle and hard working too  
You'll be delighted what happens to you  
    I'm not saying its all sugar and spice  
Because some folks will not treat you nice  
    If you always look to the positive side  
Your life will fair much better on its ride  
    The love you show to all you meet  
Will some day prove the right way to defeat  
    Even those that hurt you on your way  
They just might turn around and be a friend some day  
    Just keep on trying with the real you in control  
Look to the heavens and wonders can unfold  
    Don't let others pull you into the dirt  
    For if you do you'll surely get hurt  
Take a good look around and see where you are  
    Do you really need a Rolls Royce car  
    So many others are in real need  
    You can help, do a good deed  
    The pay back is many times over  
The feeling you helped will put you in clover  
    You are such an important person you see  
    To everyone you meet, including me  
You're important to the plan that has been put in place  
Keep on track and don't just become wasted space



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

**Volunteer**

## **Volunteer**

**There is a time in everyone's career  
To show your love for others and volunteer  
    You don't really have to look far  
Just look around, you don't even need a car  
    So many need your attention and help  
Most do the best they can with never a whelp  
Just a word of encouragement may do the deed  
Some only require your love, some you must feed  
    The winter when it's bitter and cold  
Some can't find real warmth when sick and old  
    Some require someone who cares to guide  
        Some need groceries or just a ride  
        Some want to go to church to pray  
    Do you think you can help them on that day  
    Have you ever felt the pain and been alone  
Have you ever been cold, hungry and had no home  
    Do others treat you with great respect  
    What do you think your maker would expect  
        All people are precious souls to God  
    On these down and in need we better not trod  
        The time will come when you'll cry out  
Then, my friend, you'll know what I'm talking about.**

© 1996 John H. Ryder, 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## "What Then"

### "What Then"

With Government taking more and more each day  
With fewer and fewer jobs, who's going to pay  
Both Companies and Government lost their loyalty  
They both seem to think they are Royalty  
Why do the Company and Government officials  
Feel their job deserves such pay for their credentials  
Why not be realistic and use a ten to one Rule  
Ten times the lowest salary is a better school  
Today the man on the bottom never gets a chance  
To really do the basics and have time for romance  
Some must work three jobs at minimum pay  
To support his family in a very meager way  
Something has happened to us indeed  
When we turn our heads to those in need  
My friend, that's always been called greed  
When some cannot their family's feed  
While the officials bask in the sun at a foreign beach  
With money they have sucked from us like a leach  
We have all been told each child on this earth  
Was supposed to be equal at birth  
But equality doesn't apply to some it seems  
Hard and honest work, Yet never see their dreams  
I guess it will all come to a head  
That's for sure, when we all are dead  
Of all the hearse I've seen on the road  
I've never seen it pulling a U-Haul It with a load  
If you are one of the officials mentioned above  
Stop and think about what you can do to show love.



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

## Seeds in the brain

### Seeds in the brain

If it doesn't go in your mind, it can't come out  
Moral, healthful training is what its all about

The mind contains many dormant seeds

Some beautiful flowers, some are weeds

Cultivate those that are pure and right

They will help you through a stormy night

Let the many weeds in your mind die

Cause in the future they could make you cry

Choose your friends in a careful way

You'll see in the long run it will pay

Everything in life is not black or white

There are many shades of gray in the light

As your life may be as waves in the ocean

Steer a straight course, avoid the emotion

Hold the great times and fun times dear

So you can call them back year after year

Fear not the storms that may be ahead

You can weather them, hold to the one you wed

Just stop from time to time, examine your seeds

Have they grown as you have, or are there still weeds

Watch and enjoy the garden in your head

I hope its full of roses yellow, white and red.

© 1996 John H. Ryder 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

## A New RV

### A New RV

If I can have one wish in heaven, it would be  
To have a brand new RV to drive and to see  
    All the ones before me I never have met  
Take my grandparents, mother and Mom and let  
    Them enjoy all the majestic wonders to behold  
We'd pick up Aunt Pearl, have a Rook game untold  
    Yes Juanita, Uncle Arch and Clifford could go  
We will have a time in the mountains and valley low  
    Yes, there will be pickin' and singing' day and night  
        We wouldn't miss a note and get it right  
        My RV wouldn't need gas or oil to run  
        It'll run on love and the joy of such fun  
        We'd go to the river for Aunt Pearl to fish  
        Uncle Bill will clean them and put in a dish  
        Uncle Ralph and I would go hunting I know  
Get some rabbits, ducks and squirrels with our bow  
Maw-Maw would have a big watermelon in the creek  
To cool just right and have ready for us to cut and eat  
    Our million year ride would be only a start  
Cause in Heaven we'll be together and never part  
    As those left behind come to join us there  
    It can only get better, God answers our prayer  
    But for now, we all have things to do down here  
Accept His grace and believe, there's nothing to fear

© 1996 John H. Ryder 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# John takes a look at Life via Poems

## WORDS

### WORDS

The most powerful thing around is words  
We all use them everyday, even the nerds

The very context we use our words in can be key  
The facial expressions change the meaning you see  
The brain will not only record the word that is spoken  
How you say it can be mending or a friendship broken

The words used as we speak can be humor  
or imply some bad deed and start a rumor  
Words unsaid can change what we mean  
and make someone else look like a fiend

We should always use enough, but not too many  
Or what we say may not be worth a penny

Words can build folks up or tear them down

Those words we say seem to get all around town  
Gossip is like a real hot meltdown in a reactor  
Once said, it can't be pulled back with a tractor  
Those words are like atoms and fusion in time  
Their half life is infinite, non-stopable in brine

Good things said seem to have a much shorter half life  
So use them freely, they will act as a lifelong cooling pipe  
Share the more positive things we find to expound  
Will put you in a better light with all those around  
Many of those folks will return the favor you'll find  
Regardless, you'll feel better and have peace of mind

© 1996 John H. Ryder 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*

**GOOD NIGHT**

## **GOOD NIGHT**

A very silly poem I had to write  
To free your mind and let you sleep tonight

I always wondered why  
That bumble bees can fly  
They really can't you know  
They just fan those wings and go

Chet Atkins plays 3 parts on the guitar when he plays  
Nobody told him there were 3 people playing those days

He just listened to the radio and heard the song  
Little Chet just practiced until he got nothing wrong  
So good night, go to sleep and get some rest  
Tomorrow's another day, you can do your best  
You have it in you to do great things and excel  
Just try a little harder tomorrow at the sun's bell.

© 1996 John H. Ryder 2105 Adventure Trail, Durham, NC 27703  
Published in the United States, All rights reserved



# *John takes a look at Life via Poems*