

# Two Sonnets

by [Jeffrey Burghauer](#) (December 2018)



*Girl with Cat*, Michael Ayrton

[1] Petland

Petland (facing the electric sub-

Station shivering like a tray of  
Experimental lyres), a-throb  
At noontime, supplies a display of  
Children & puppies, who, a-lather  
With an Arcadian bravery,  
Pour their excesses at each other.  
But it's the adults who interest me.

What's in their dear eyes as they receive  
Such wealth as a supple, amber-drawn,  
Juvenile cat appears to give?  
Of what is this a perversion?

But I know the magnitude: as wide,  
As raw, as Democracy, applied.



*Bored with Lessons*, August Heyn, 1876

## [2] Students

Greene's set-designs are back-lit for me  
By his having built Saint Credo's dome.

Gibbon mentions that the soldiery

Serving fruitful, still-ascendant Rome,  
Foaming in the fury of her arts,  
In making their famously precise  
Exercises, used swords that were twice  
The weight of their wartime counterparts.

Each unit of a true poem grows  
From those powers too immense to aim.

A decade's teaching has taught me more  
Than anything else that (sadly) for  
Many a student, his family name  
Is the most substantial word he knows.

---

Jeffrey Burghauser is an English teacher in Columbus, Ohio. He was educated at SUNY-Buffalo, the University of Leeds, and currently studies the five-string banjo with a focus on pre-WWII picking styles. A former artist-in-residence at the Arad Arts Project (Israel), his poems have previously appeared (or are forthcoming) in *Appalachian Journal*, *Lehrhaus*, *New English Review*, and *Iceview* (Iceland).

Follow NER on Twitter [@NERIconoclast](https://twitter.com/NERIconoclast)

[Back to Home Page](#)