

## Introduction to the Science Poems

The next three poems and others appearing elsewhere share one thing: the subject of science. One stems (excuse the pun) from an encounter with a student; the others are imaginary reactions to subjects I overheard being taught. Thankfully, the students will never follow my teaching of science --- and gratefully the world, with the exception of you forewarned readers --- will never be seriously exposed to my ideas about the scientific areas covered by these poems. After all, science was my worst subject as a high school student and things have not improved over the years of my being a high school teacher.

Regarding the first poem, "Kelly's Cow," this is the backstory: One day, an overwrought and distraught student entered the Study Center. Her countenance was one almost of someone experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder. I approached her and elicited from her the source of her dismay. "I just had to dissect a cow's eye," she stated robotically (to the best of my memory). I felt that I had to calm her down, to exchange her shock for tranquility, and so I proceeded. One of the ways I attempted to defuse the situation was by writing her a humorous poem. (During my many years as a classroom teacher, I had discovered that humor was an excellent antidote for tension.) I'm still not sure how well it worked, but it did produce the first poem in this aggregation, "Kelly's Cow," dedicated to all non-scientifically inclined students who face situations similarly distasteful to Kelly's. Perhaps the ludicrousness of the comic situation will put things into perspective for them, at least momentarily. I discuss this elsewhere on this HUMOR page.

As for the remaining poems, they were my reactions to lessons that were being taught at nearby tables: one about villi, one about atoms, one about asexual reproduction and, previously appearing, one about animals with skeletons on the outside of their bodies. The next three of these are handled with humor and the one about the animal with an exoskeleton turns serious and gloomy, perhaps as a way to encourage students to appreciate the positives in their lives. I admit that I had my own take on each matter (again, excuse the pun). And again, do NOT learn your science from me. You have been warned!