

## ***“Librarian’s Shelf” by Heather St. Clair***

### Bad Poetry Day

It seems that there is some sort of holiday every day of the year and for just about anything you could imagine. Bad poetry is no exception; every August 18th is Bad Poetry Day. Thomas and Ruth Roy of Wellcat.com invented it to compensate for all the poetry you had to read in school.

Personally, I am not a big fan of good poetry, but I particularly enjoy some bad poetry simply because it is just so terrible. While browsing [verybadpoetry.com](http://verybadpoetry.com), I came across “Just Another Bad Poem,” by Nathan Hur, where he rhymes sense with cents and works questions into the poem asking what rhymes with refrigerator and rocks.

“Reptilicus,” by Troy Lumber, was particular amusement. It actually makes some sense and my favorite line is “Forked tongue of truth protects the free.” Other titles I have not yet had the pleasure of reading are “The glasgow ice cream wars,” by Norma Con; “Salvation through salivation,” by David Lapierre; and “Creepy dolls,” by Anonymous Thomas, to name a few.

While I only sampled a very few poems at “Very Bad Poetry,” there were over three thousand more, and this was only one of many websites, pages, and blogs devoted to the art of bad poetry. Just search bad poetry in the search engine of your choice and you will find “The Bad Poetry Page,” “Bad Poetry At Its Finest,” “Professor Roy and the Amazingly Bad Poetry Journal,” and more.

That same search will also give you links to recognize bad poetry, writing bad poetry and celebrating Bad Poetry Day. For those of you who don’t want to read bad poetry you can always listen to it on YouTube.

If you prefer to avoid bad poetry then you can always try [www.famouspoetsandpoems.com](http://www.famouspoetsandpoems.com), where you can read poems by Shel Silverstien, Emily Dickenson, Edgar Allan Poe, E.E. Cummings and more. The Columbus Public Library also has works in print by these same authors, as well as those by John G. Neihardt, William Kloefkorn, Ted Kooser and others.

We also have “Good Poems for Hard Times” and “Good Poems, American Places,” both by Garrison Keillor. Whether or not they are “good” is up to the reader.

For those of you without a computer or access to the internet, feel free to use the computers in our lab at the Columbus Public Library to enjoy the plethora of bad poetry on the web. We wouldn’t want anyone to miss out.

Even though Bad Poetry Day has passed us by for this year, you can always celebrate late and there is always next year.

The links to the sites listed above can be found on our Facebook page. You can find the link to our Facebook page, as well as other information, at [www.columbuslibrary.info](http://www.columbuslibrary.info). If you have questions about these or other materials, please feel free to stop in the library, call us at 402-564-7116, option 2, or email us at [library@columbusne.us](mailto:library@columbusne.us).