



"The Introduction" **Remix**

Billy Collins' poems are great templates for creative writing. His piece entitled "The Introduction" is used here as an example. (Text in black is the original, text in red has been substituted.)

I don't think this next poem needs any introduction - it's best to let the work speak for itself.

Maybe I should just mention that whenever I use the word **shiitake**, I'm referring to **anything inexplicable, not necessarily the mushroom** – as in "Tell me I did **not just see what I think I...shiitake!**"



Oh - and **Theinhko** was a **Burmese king**.
He **was killed for eating cucumbers without permission**.

That's about it, but for the record, "**Rooney**" is **Wayne Mark Rooney, the English footballer**.



"**Cebu**" is that little island **province in the Philippines**.
"**Carbuncle**" - well, you all know what a **carbuncle** is.



There could be a little problem with **estaba**, which is **the first-person singular imperfect indicative of estar, Spanish for "to be."**



And you're all familiar with **omphalophobia**? It's the **fear of belly buttons**.

Oh, and you will recall that **David Howell Evans** is the real name of **The Edge**.



Other than that, everything should be obvious.

Humptulips is a town in Washington.

Fiddleheads are an edible fern. What else?

Yes, **nimrod** is a **pejorative term meaning "doofus or lamebrain,"** but it's also an orchestral piece by **Sir Edward Elgar**, and **Boring** is just **Boring, Oregon**.



The rest of the poem should be clear.
I'll just read it and let it speak for itself.

It's about the time I **plagiarized Billy Collins, mostly**.



It's called "**Plagiarizing Billy Collins, Mostly**."

For the true text of "Introduction," check out the CIF poetry page. You can print or download our fill-in-the-blank version like the one used here and try inserting your own favorite trivia at

<http://creativityisforever.com/resources/TheIntroductionRemix.pdf>

<http://creativityisforever.com/resources/TheIntroductionRemix.doc>



The rumble strip on the side of the highway emits a certain pitch when you drive over it. The frequency you hear represents the number of grooves (or beats) per second - known as *hertz*. The faster you go, the higher the pitch.

In most states, one "rumble" consists of a 3.5-inch raised area surrounded on both sides by 7 inches of space. So there is a (net) groove every 10.5 inches.

We can now calculate what speeds produce which notes!

(numbers in red are examples, numbers in black are constant)

We convert mph to inches per second:
65 mph would be 65 x 5280 x 12 divided by 3600 (seconds in an hour) or 1,144 in/sec

We now divide by 10.5 to determine the number of grooves within this distance
1144 divided by 10.5 = 109 or 109 Hz

from there, the notes would be as follows:

- A = 110, 220 or 440 Hz
- A# = 115, 230 or 461 Hz
- B = 122, 244 or 488 Hz
- C = 128, 256 or 512 Hz
- C# = 136, 272 or 544 Hz
- D = 144, 288 or 576 Hz
- D# = 153, 306 or 612 Hz
- E = 162, 324 or 648 Hz
- F = 172, 344 or 688 Hz
- F# = 183, 365 or 730 Hz
- G = 194, 387 or 774 Hz
- G# = 205, 410 or 820 Hz

So, when you find out one of the hitchhikers you just picked up happens to be celebrating their big day, slip on up to 76.5 mph and ease into "Happy Birthday" in the traditional key of C. "In the Jailhouse Now"??? Ahemmm, key of F!