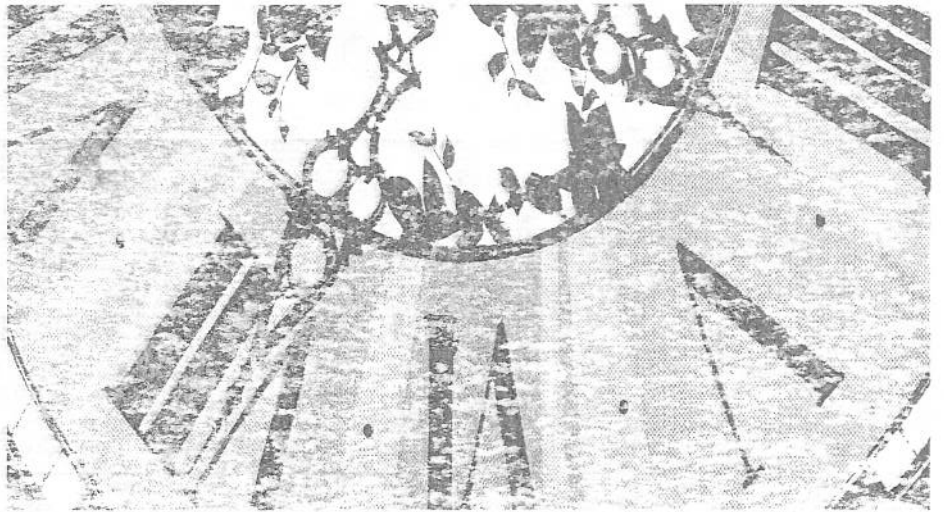




PoetryN.O.W. and The Hayfield Secondary Spoken Word Club presents...

## But you continue on...

an entirely awesome collection of poetry



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**Trees** by Judy Russell

One unexpected day I look out into the world  
I think of nothing but loneliness  
as it fogs up my vision  
The nothingness stares back at me

I am a cliché sapling scared of the future  
I will never have a chance to understand  
The birds view of the sunset,  
Watching the sun turn  
the first few minutes of daytime to gold.

But most of all, I think I will never understand humans.  
I stretch my roots out to the trees of the Congo.  
They sing stories to me  
of their blood stained leaves from the defiant slaves.  
Tired of the hypocrisy of dictators,  
Who can kill millions and feel no remorse,

My bark becomes the drawing board  
for a love sick drunk girl  
Carving happy memories of her boyfriend into me  
Just the other day, I see him beat her to the ground  
Creating scars no lotion will be able to hide.

I serve as a friend  
Listening to the tears of a young girl  
Who fell victim to her daddy's cruel hands  
As they crawled up her flower dress  
I only wish I could stretch my branches into hugs  
Turning all her pain into love

I know there is good in the world  
And as I look out of the window to my thoughts  
It seems impossible  
To inhale stink and poisons and exhale oxygen  
And yet that's what the trees do all the time.



[www.poetrynowva.com](http://www.poetrynowva.com)

#### poetryN.O.W.'s Mission

Our mission is to provide educators with the resources necessary to create successful poetry programs in their schools. Through these after school programs, we seek to cultivate creative outlets, give young voices platforms on which to be heard, facilitate writing and performance workshops, create a sense of camaraderie between students of varying economic and social divides, and foster opportunities for these organizations to contribute back to their schools and communities.

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