

About the Author

Tillamook, Nez Perce, and Chinook;
Polk picked the place, Lewis and Clark to a look.
The Oregon Trail ended at my residence.
And it turned into a place of Prohibition decadence.

I'm from the center of the city—
Basketball, the minor leagues, and Fútbol: No Pity.
Oh so many bridges:
Five-Oh-Three to downtown, just count the digits.

I'm from a split teaching unit:
Recording cassette tapes and our T.V., we had to tune it.
I'm from the youngest of three brothers...
A little sister, the Irish clan of cousins, and others.

Mom's house, with the bar from the speakeasy,
No A.C., open windows, so breezy.
Discussions about truth and kindness,
Believing in people, and open-mindedness.

At Padre's: from Hot Pockets to homemade,
Learned to count by playing cards and counting spades.
Crosswords and history lessons
Aided in my drive for my current class sessions.

Cocoa Puffs and Saturday morning cartoons:
TMNT, Power Rangers, "Yah-bah-da-bah-doo!"
Every time I see *SlimeTime Live*, I still try to enter,
But I graduated to the five-thirty *SportsCenter*.

The Patriot: a curiosity spark.
Indiana Jones uncovered the Lost Ark,
Films played a reel throughout my life—
And I saw triumph among strife.

Q-Tip from A Tribe Called Quest,
Sunday Night Slow Down, hit me with a little Jagged Edge.
Marley, Earth, Wind, and Fire, Hendrix,
Jay-Z, Rakim, Tupac, and Kendrick.

Hunter S. Thompson for descriptivism,
All the President's Men added a bit of skepticism.
Hemingway, every word has its purpose,
Gary Paulson's stories made me a little bit nervous.

Yet I always travelled.
To Lisbon, to Rome, to Oviedo, I babbled.
Young self in awe of Honduran poverty—
Cross-country road trips visualized our economies.

Into the Doc's Delorean I go,
What the future holds, I don't know.
I don't leave the past behind,
But I know that Spring is a state of mind.

Guiding the future of an uncertain culture,
By flying over a dead past like a vulture,
Bringing it to life for each and every student;
I can't think of a profession more prudent.