



## ~L O T U S C H O R U S W O R K S H O P~



a γυμνάσιον

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### INSTRUCTIONS:

- write a sentence of poetry
- receive feedback
- revise your sentence accordingly
- repeat
- type "quit" to quit

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### NOTE:

I wrote the following with assistance from an algorithmic "writing workshop simulator" that I designed to provide cognitively overwhelming feedback. You can find the code and an online version of the interface here: <https://github.com/kbooten/lotuschorusworkshop>

i.

>This is how you prepare for the next world.

👤:Replace "next" with a similar word that is alliterative with "world."

👤:This really needs an anthimeria.

👤:What if you swapped "world" with a 6 syllable word that begins with "l" and that sounds like it could be from your private language?

>This is how you base for the whooshing world.

👤:Well revised...now keep going, write a new sentence.

>First you pick a country---America, not America, or soon America.

👤:Too vague. Make this a specific country from London.

👤:Try this again but without any proper nouns.

👤:I'd move "country" to the beginning of the sentence.

>Country selection, go!: the big one everywhere, the alleged antipoles elsewhere, the crumbly ones who enjoy soccer and the big one's fission aegis.

👤:Good. Now write another sentence.

>If you work a computer job, you can afford a subsistence farm.

👤:You must defeat yourself by becoming more like yourself.

>If you work a data job, you can afford a subsistence floral farm.

👤:See how your verse becomes more ordered?

>Two acres is generally plenty, though you should make friends to trade with.

👤:Replace "plenty" with a similar word that rhymes with "friends."

👤:This really needs an antipersonification.

👤:What if you swapped "acres" with a word that begins with "c"?

>Dos cuerdas should generally fend, though you should make friends who you can milk.

👤:You have earned this symbol of your openness: 🌸

>Trade small pink fish (grown in backyard buckets) for salt, or tar for universal bullets.

👤:Too vague. Make this a specific tar from Nigeria.

>Trade small pink fish (grown in backyard buckets) for salt; for universal bullets, Benin Basin bitumen.

👤:Much better.

>The only house worth living in will last until we become a discontinuous hominid.

👤:Try this again but without any determiners (or 'articles') like 'an' or 'the' etc..

👤:I'd move "hominid" to the beginning of the sentence.


>Hominid of discontinuous future inhabiting our own-built home; if not, why bother?

👤:For your efforts, please take this: 🌸


>A wall for your family stead should be roughly as thick as the Great Pyramid's.

:Not bad. Go on.

>And should feature many bulwarks and several inlaid courts (for squash, for jai alai, for other physical activities to be invented).

:Not bad. Go on.


>You quite reasonably want to know about weapons but you'll have to ask someone else about that domain.

:Replace "weapons" with a similar word that rhymes with "domain."

>You quite reasonably want to know about pain rain, about round shot vs. bar vs. chain, but you'll have to ask someone else about that domain.

:Go on...

>Though I have seen videos of contemporary destruction, and have read comments explaining just how tactics lead to embarrassing death.

:This would be so much better if it had an onomatopoeia and an antimetabole.

>Though I have seen muted videos of booms, though I have read comments explaining just which tactics lead to embarrassing death, which to death's embarrassment.

:Go on...

ii.

>Could you go without checking your phone all winter?

👤:Try ending with this word: "nature."

>Could you go without checking your phone until winter, or does this violate your new nature?

👤:Well revised...now keep going, write a new sentence.

>Could you lie prone in a shallow crater without moving your head at all?

👤:Too vague. Make this a specific head from Illyria.

👤:This needs some cleverness...when I see the word "head" I think of "cephalization."

👤:What if you swapped "head" with a 2 syllable word that begins with "l" and that puts one in mind of the Apophthegmata?

>Could you lie still in a shallow crater with only thin bronze flaps to shield your cephalization?

👤:Good. Now write another sentence.

>In your dreams, when the helicopters list and fall, how fast are you?

👤:"Dreams"?...really?...enough of this damn romance stuff!

👤:Try getting rid of all the "h"'s. There are entirely too many.

>In your vale of REM, when the Kamovs list and sink, do you escape?

👤:See how your verse becomes more liberated?

>When you imagine movements in your mind, even asleep, your body experiences this as practice.

👤:Try ending with this word: "earth."

👤:Instead of "practice," what about "practice-gate"?

👤:Replace "practice" with a similar word that rhymes with "movements."

>To imagine movement is itself attunement of matter---hence all those monks must close their eyes to spin the earth.

👤:You have earned this symbol of your openness: 🌸

>Soldiers used to dress like toxic pheasants.

👤:What if you swapped "used" with a word that begins with "p"?

👤:Try this again but without any prepositions.

>Soldiers previously wore toxic pheasant padding.

👤:Good.

>Just now, while rubbing the newspaper, I was served an advertisement for tactical sweatpants.

👤:Not bad. Go on.

>Because of my background, I understood that this product did not exist, yet that by clicking it I could make it real.

👤:Too vague. Make this a specific product from Ancient Greece.

>Because of my background, I understood that this product---CozyGreaves, blue-gray and Kevlar-jersey blend---did not exist, yet that by clicking it I could make it real.

👤:Well revised.

iii.

>This leaf in my hand reminds me of the secret tennis.

👩:This really needs a caesura.

👨:Try this again but without any prepositions.

>This handheld leaf, my secret tennis memory.

👤:Well revised...now keep going, write a new sentence.

>A court sport that shows how democracy and monarchy are compatible.

👩:Too vague. Make this a specific sport from Byzantium.

👨:"Monarchy"?...really?...enough of this damn political stuff, no?

>A tzykanon played on a flat surface amidst bluffs of coral darkness.

👤:Good. Now write another sentence.

>A lime green horse runs alongside a titanium blue horse.

👩:Replace "horse" with a similar word that rhymes with "lime."

>A lime green hippoprime runs alongside a titanium merely horse.

👤:See how your verse becomes more dense?

>The ball bounces off the fence and rolls beneath my maroon polarfleece vest.

👩:This would be so much better if it had a moral and an antanaclasis.

👨:Try this again but without any present tense verbs.

>The ball bounced off the fence and rolled beneath the fat rolls of my polarfleece.

👤:You have earned this symbol of your purity: 🌸

>Now that whole area has been turned back into swampland for some sort of bird which hates me.

👩:Replace "swampland" with a similar word that rhymes with "sort."

👨:'for some sort of bird which hates me'---this is the soul of the line. (Everything else...I don't love?)

>Now that whole area has been reclaimed into swampfort for some sort of bird which hates me.

👤:👍

>I'll get you yet, tubercular Daffy, and eat you entire, with my whole wet mouth and no dribble of shame!

👩:This really needs an enthymeme.

>Tubercular Daffy, I'll eat you yet entire, for I slurp all mine enemies with rapid wetness!

👤:For your efforts, please take this: 🌻

>No, calm yourself, no, be at peace, be like snow on school on curb, be like felt on face or plinth.

👤:Not bad. Go on.

>You must forgive your enemies, yourself, and your mutual teachers.

👨:Try this again but without any verbs.

👩:"Teachers"?...really?...enough of this tedious school stuff!

>Forgiveness for your enemies, more for yourself, still more for your shared milieu.

👤:For your efforts, please take this: 🌸

>(That last one's hardest, since it gave you life and direction, and since that direction was against life.)

👤:Too vague. Make this a specific direction from Finland.

👤:Replace "direction" with a similar word that rhymes with "life."

>(That last one's hardest, since it gave you life and pointed you toward Bear Knife, which was north, away from Kurjenrahka and from life.)

👤:For your efforts, please take this: 🌸

>Even now, these five centuries later, you are a stone giant and your mug of barley tea hasn't cooled.

👤:This would be so much better if it had a skotison and a moral.

👤:'these five centuries later'...I just feel like this needs some toxic energy?

>Even now, after five centuries of what shouldn't have been granted five minutes, you are a stone giant and your mug of barley tea hasn't cooled; that serves you right for acting like Florian from Beyer's *Das Menschenfleisch*.

👤:Much better.

>And even if it's still too hot, your tea, at least it's gotten so much deeper.

👤:Not bad. Go on.

**Kyle Booten** is an assistant professor in the Department of English at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. His most recent project is [Nightingale](#), a Keatsian browser extension (available in the Chrome Web Store). He was recently Nokturno.fi's poet-in-digital-residence, and his poems written with the assistance or interference of algorithms have appeared in *Lana Turner*, *Litmus* (UK), *Datableed*, *Tentacular*, *Fence*, *Boston Review*, and *Denver Quarterly*.

