

## Poems for memorization and recitation

Poems 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are from: 彭鏡禧、夏燕生 (譯著), 1994; 2007. 好詩大家讀. 台北: 書林.

(1) **Dust of Snow** Robert Frost  
American (1874-1963)

The way a crow  
Shook down on me  
The dust of snow  
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.

(2) **The Eagle** Alfred, Lord Tennyson  
English (1809-1892)

He clasps the crag with crooked hands  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;  
He watches from his mountain walls,  
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

(3) **Fire and Ice** Robert Frost  
American (1874-1963)

Some say the world will end in fire,  
Some say in ice.  
From what I've tasted of desire  
I hold with those who favor fire.  
But if it had to perish twice,  
I think I know enough of hate  
To know that for destruction ice  
Is also great  
And would suffice.

(4) **The guitarist tunes up** Frances Cornford  
English (1886-1960)

With what attentive courtesy he bent  
Over his instrument;  
Not as a lordly conqueror who could  
Command both wire and wood,  
But as a man with a loved woman might,  
Inquiring with delight  
What slight essential things she had to say  
Before they started, he and she, to play.

(5) **This Be The Verse**  
Philip Arthur Larkin (English 1922-1985)

They fuck you up, your mum and dad.  
They may not mean to, but they do.  
They fill you with the faults they had  
And add some extra, just for you.

But they were fucked up in their turn  
By fools in old-style hats and coats,  
Who half the time were sappy-stern  
And half at one another's throats.

Man hands on misery to man.  
It deepens like a coastal shelf.  
Get out as early as you can,  
And don't have any kids yourself.

(6) **The hound** Robert Francis  
American (1901-1987)

Life the hound  
Equivocal  
Comes at a bound  
Either to rend me  
Or to befriend me.  
I cannot tell  
The hound's intent  
Till he has sprung  
At my bare hand  
With teeth or tongue.  
Meanwhile I stand  
And wait the event.