

En Masse

we stand together
against wind that
waves winter wheat
then twists into a rage
and rips off rooftops

we stand together
against rain that
puddles for children's footsteps
then floods creek banks
and drowns corn in the field

we stand together
against sun that
warms spring's soul
then blisters skin
and parches soil

we stand together
through difficulties
looking to the stars

Warning: Don't Drink and Write!

under the influence
words swerve
take curves too fast
steer across margin lines
and crash head-on into strange ideas

verbs unwisely pick up adverbs
and those pesky adjectives whine to ride along
nouns won't wear seatbelts
transitions won't use turn signals
and sentences run-on into guardrails, leaving
participles dangling
over the river

commas roll through stop signs
periods screech to a halt at crosswalks
parentheses won't close the door
and don't even talk about quotation marks

as wide-eyed readers grip their seats
the opus flies off a cliff
and collapses in a crumpled heap

at
the
bottom
of
the
page

See another poem on the following page

My Obituary

Have you ever

strolled the sands of San Diego
Maui, Cabo, Puerto Rico,
and the Arizona desert
known grandkids' arms around your
neck
cracked a double-yolk egg
acted in a play
seen Steller sea lions bask on Alaskan
ice

hiked to Hanging Lake
tried fried frog legs
practiced Tai Chi
heard Neil Diamond, live
felt wind in your face on the back of a
bike
worn leather gloves with cashmere
lining

walked to school in the snow
uphill
both ways
raised a protest sign
soaked in a hot tub
sold fifty boxes of Girl Scout cookies
smelled ozone before a storm

laughed so hard you couldn't breathe
eaten an avocado
solved a Sunday *New York Times*
crossword, without cheating
steamed clams fresh from a Fire Island
clammer
studied anthropology
married a good man

scarfed down a whole bag of M&Ms
all
at
once

hovered in a helicopter
published a book
touched an Olympic gold medal
jumped on a trampoline
swum with dolphins
drunk clear water from a spring
won a race
loved a dog
served a cat
coached kids
conversed in French
made a quilt
raised two perfect girls
watched a glacier calve
read *The Art of Racing in the Rain*
savored a buffalo steak, medium rare
escaped down a firefighter's ladder,
barefoot
made an igloo in your front yard

been kissed by a camel
spit in the Mississippi
witnessed a total solar eclipse
hit a slots jackpot
sipped Sangster's Jamaica Rum Cream
bid and made a bridge grand slam
picked ripe raspberries
driven with a police escort
sniffed a Magic Marker
ridden an elephant
written a poem?

I have.

Continued at left