

# **POEM SUMMARIES**



**FRANCISCO BITAR**

**Translated by Alejandro de Acosta**



# **NO KEYS IN THE DARK**

by **Fabián Casas**

A guy goes to take out the trash and the door locks behind him. Trash in hand, he thinks about death.

## **EPIGRAM**

by **Laura Wittner**

A girl laughs at something her guy said, not at what the guy meant but what she thought he did. The girl compares the misunderstanding with childhood.

**THIS IS JUST TO SAY**  
by **William Carlos Williams**

A guy eats the plums his wife was saving for later.  
He couldn't control himself.

# **IN A STATION OF THE METRO**

by **Ezra Pound**

Comparison of the appearance of some faces in a crowd with petals on a dark, moist branch.

# **THE GAUCHO MARTÍN FIERRO**

by **José Hernández**

A devious, quarrelsome gaucho kills and escapes.  
Then he returns, reformed, far less interesting.

## **NIGHT WORK**

by **Juan Manuel Inchauspe**

When he wakes up, a guy finds the carcass of a giant rat. Then his cat emerges from between the plants, her fur “still charged with nocturnal electricity.” The guy feeds his cat.



# **LIGHT AND DARKNESS**

by **Daniel Durand**

A guy speaks with the ants in his kitchen, telling them of the importance of poverty for their ongoing relationship. But he warns them: if he gets a job, the ants will die as a result of that personal achievement. The conclusion is that, if that happened, something important would also die in him.

## **SHE LOVES THE WALL**

by **Estela Figueroa**

A woman speaks of the relationship between a climbing ivy and the wall it covers. There are telling resemblances with love between people. But the woman says, if the wall should crumble, the ivy will fall away “like hair without a head.” The power of that comparison dissipates the foregoing.

# **THE CITY**

by **Constantine Kavafy**

A guy talks to himself (using that you that is really a prosthesis of the I) about the vain illusion of starting over a real life in another city. Once life is ruined, it will always be ruined, anywhere.

# **NATIONAL ANTHEM OF ARGENTINA**

by **Alejandro Vicente López y Planes**

All made to last: the Argentine people, immortal;  
the laurels, eternal. An oath: glory or death. And despite  
that there is value placed on freedom.

**TO A PASSERBY**  
by **Charles Baudelaire**

A guy sees a pretty woman go by, and then she is dragged away by urban bustle. Where has she gone? He could have loved her, and one can say, that, for a moment, he did. Oh time. Oh crowds. Oh chance.

## **MORNING IN ABASTO**

by **Luca Prodan**

In this one it's the guy who wanders and the crowd that stays put: the girl is alone and frightened, a man seated with his bottle of wine, sad bars, José Luis kisses his girlfriend, Sergio who works at the bar. The guy gets bored and leaves for the subway. He descends, you could say he sinks.

# **THE INDOOR PLANT I GAVE MY GIRLFRIEND FOR HER BIRTHDAY**

by **Julián Bejarano**

A guy gives his girlfriend an indoor plant.  
Recommendations: a name, some lights, two cups of water, one at night, the other one in the morning. Don't let it die, he seems to tell her, because who knows what else is alive between us.

# **STOP ALL THE CLOCKS**

by **W.H. Auden**

It could also be a song in which a guy asks the world to stop so as to pay respects to the funeral procession taking, to the final resting place, an old flame.



This book was written between dawn and morning on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, each piece not exceeding the 240 characters allowed by the Twitter platform. It was laid out that afternoon by the skilled hand of Juanjo Conti, whom the author can't thank enough.

It was translated into English on September 24, 2021, on a fine afternoon in Gainesville, Florida.

Original: *RESÚMENES DE POEMAS*

*POEM SUMMARIES*, like *RESÚMENES DE POEMAS*,  
has a CREATIVE COMMONS ATTRIBUTION —  
NON COMMERCIAL — SHAREALIKE 4.0  
INTERNATIONAL LICENSE.

Francesco Bitar

<https://twitter.com/franbitar>

Alejandro de Acosta

<https://twitter.com/objeu>



**[ mufa : : poema]**

**translation series 001**