

**POEMS** COMPETITIONS WRITING TEACHERS NEWS VIDEOS

# Thou Poem

A. F. Moritz



Thou poem of lost attention and half try,  
do you fear more the inner world or outer?

*I do not love the self less than the others,  
my name is legion and my mouth one cry.*

Thou poem of the unwell, of the dry well and doom,  
and the snake's on your lip, in you the toad persists.

*Did we come here just to read of what exists?  
I champ at my winter bit to be in bloom.*

But what's the difference between you, poem, and the flower?  
Don't both break from the compost as long as it may be?

*You are the one who knows what metaphor  
and imposes it. Two dandelions are not similar to me.*

Thou song of all-powerful individuality,  
if only I could rest in you escaping me...

*You would never again be troubled by the nudity  
of the mother, or the Heart Fall's killing roar*

*as you slid toward it, catafalqued on the fluid  
descents of a new old world, shrouded in greenwood.*

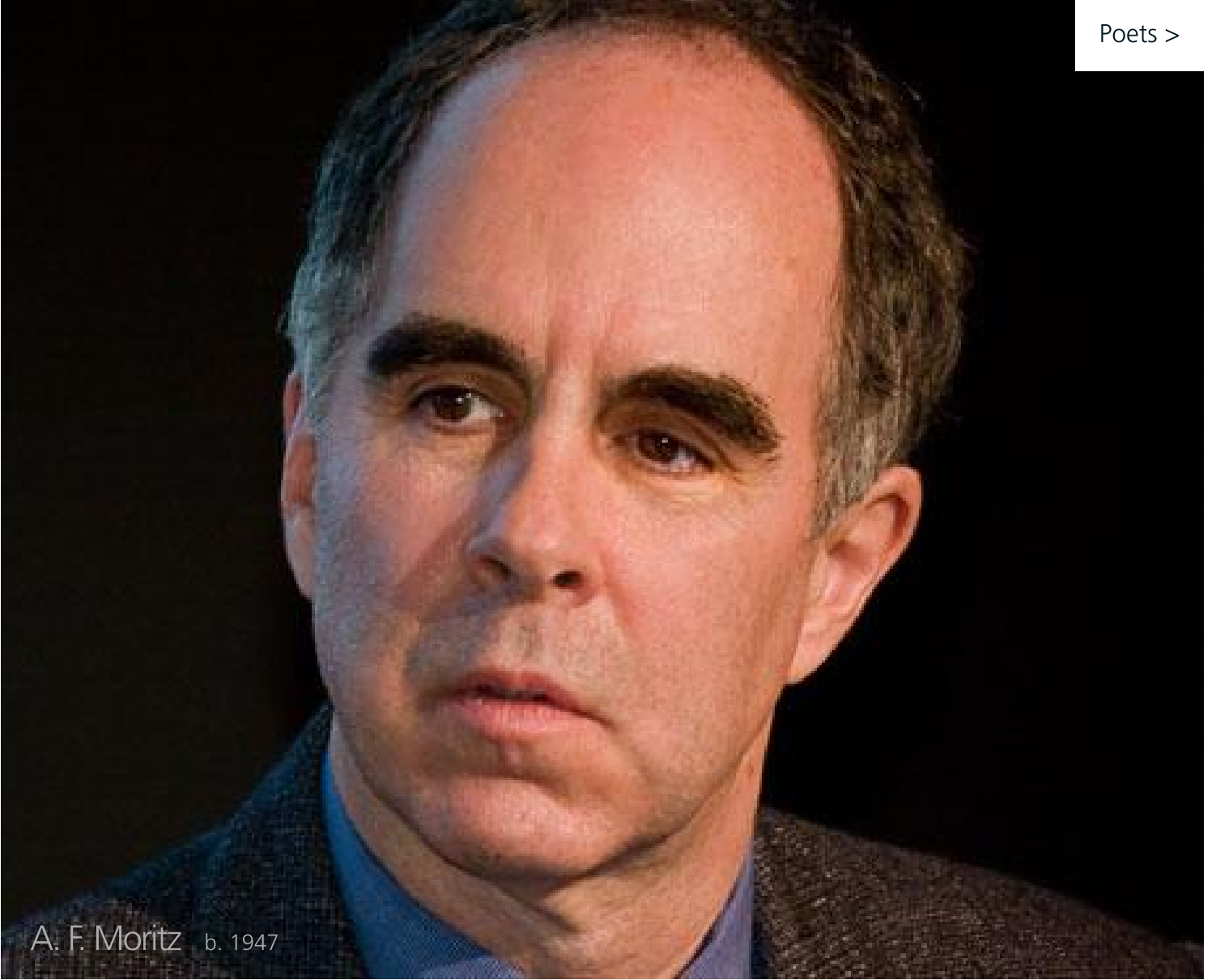
Thou ignorant epic of half-knowing ever more,  
thanks in thought's ruin for reminding me.

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A. F. Moritz, "Thou Poem," from *The Sentinel* (House of Anansi Press, 2008). Copyright ©  
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Source: *The Sentinel* (House of Anansi Press, 2008).

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A. F. Moritz b. 1947

Born in Niles, Ohio, in 1947, A. F. Moritz has written more than 15 books of poetry. He has been a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award and he has won the Award in Literature of...

## Contest Criteria

Grades 6-8 / Prim. 6 & Sec. 1 & 2

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Moods >

## Discouraged



Moods: Anxious, Confused, Discouraged, Haunted, Messed Up, Thoughtful, Tortured, Wry

Tags >

## Flora & Fauna



Tags: Artsy, Canada, Flora & Fauna, Ontario, Poems on Poems, Struggle, United States

Terms >

## Couplet

Terms: Couplet, Free Verse, Metaphor, Personification

### The Men That Don't Fit In

There's a race of men that don't fit in,

A race that can't stay still;

So they break the hearts of kith and kin,

Poem Roulette >

What's on your mind?

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