



2013

Shakespeare In the Park Washed Out: A Villanelle

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Recommended Citation

Holtzman, Marcia (2013) "Shakespeare In the Park Washed Out: A Villanelle," *New Jersey English Journal*: Vol. 2, Article 24.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/nj-english-journal/vol2/iss1/24>

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Shakespeare In the Park Washed Out: A Villanelle

No Tempest here tonight, only a lonely rain.
No Caliban or Ariel at Tommy's Pond.
No Prospero, but ducks in charge again.

No Shakespeare under stars, our hopes in vain
for brave new worlds emblazoned by his wand.
No Tempest here tonight, only New Jersey rain.

No rampaging in Edgar Woods, no raging Caliban,
nor airy spirits' reflected in the pond.
No Prospero, the ducks in charge again.

We hoped for magic under stars in vain,
on Tommy's pond no blazing ship will land
tonight, only the lonely rain.

On this little stage, no magic king will reign.
Miranda will not meet her Ferdinand.
No Prospero, the ducks in charge again.

Now with his charms o'erthrown, I sing my own refrain,
what strength I have's mine own by the water of despond.
No Tempest here tonight, only a lonely rain.
No Shakespeare in the park, the ducks in charge again.

- Marcia Holtzman

After retiring from the Metuchen Public Schools as Assistant Superintendent in 2001, since 2002 **Marcia Holtzman** has coordinated the Writers' Room, a program of volunteer writing coaches, in Edgar Middle School, Metuchen. She has served on the executive board of NJCTE in a variety of roles for more than forty years.