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Standardized Testing: A Mean-spirited Regression

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Standardized Testing – A Mean-spirited Regression

by Joseph S. Pizzo

Prodigious preparation
Preponderance of preview plied with presumption
Consternation-influencing cadence
Copious inspection inspiring conscripted examination
Deep meaning and structure
 sought from mundane surreptitiousness
Patented prescription purveyed
 plied by presumptive pundits
Pedagogy parlayed for profit
Insidiousness and consternation
Invalidation
Insinuation
Imitation
Intimidation
Ambiguity
Fortuitousness
Fractiousness
Viciousness
Virulence
Vituperation replacing virtue
Intimidation replacing inspiration
Insipidness replacing instinct
Connectivity and catharsis promised
Conflagration and consternation delivered

Joseph S. Pizzo has taught integrated language arts at the Black River Middle School in Chester, New Jersey, for 42 years. An adjunct professor at Union County College and Centenary University, Pizzo is the NJAMLE Educator of the Year for 2016. An executive board member of NJCTE and a former co-director and Educator of the Year, he also serves on the boards of NJAMLE and NJ Schools to Watch. A member of Fordham University's Digital Literacy Collaborative, Pizzo has written blogs about his digi-poem unit for the US Office of Veterans Affairs, the NEA Foundation, NCTE, and Digital IS. The host of podcasts for NJAMLE, NCTE, and NJCTE, Pizzo is a member of the NJDOE's Council for Teaching and Learning and the author of Barron's *New Jersey ELA/Literacy Test*.