



ENGLISH POETRY – GRADE 11

Poems at Bargain Prices

Poems, You want poems?
We got poems! Poems to make you dream
While the rulers of the country are busy.
Poems to send you to sleep
While they test their tanks and their guns.
We got poems.
Poems for you and your aftermeal sleep. Poems which do not
disturb you nor The
quiet of a Sunday afternoon,
When the sermon in the morning was comforting
And the chicken at lunch was tasty.
We got poems. Ah, you sleep?
May you wake in peace!
Because we got other poems.
Poems which will disturb you
With announcements of bloodshed,
War, atrocities, atomic bombs, and jails.
Jails, visible from the window Of your
peaceful bedroom,
Whenever you open the blinds.
Poems.
You do not want to hear these poems?
They will come to you nevertheless.

Peter Horn

YOU WEREN'T THERE

You weren't there the day I fell in the school
playground –
my cries shattering the quiet of the sterile
corridors.

You weren't there to wipe away the stains of
failure when I swam my first race – and lost.

You weren't there to pick up the shattered
pieces of my heart the night he phoned and
said it was all over.

You weren't there the day my dreams come
true,

I came home to a lonely emptiness.

You weren't there to pick me up from school
to plant a caring kiss on my troubled brow to
speak mother/daughter things – trivialities –
Yet no so trivial.

You weren't there Ever.

And soon I'll be gone – like a warm breath
on a cold Highveld morning. Forever.

Mother Carolyn Esser (Kingsmead College)