

Sestina

Libraries in the Future

Nothing is as important as knowledge and libraries are essential for the preservation and dissemination of knowledge....Linus Pauling

1 Our libraries are filled with media and paper,
2 shelves of images and words we store.
3 Computers aid us to find our choices.
4 Contents can be mailed to eager readers.
5 Children come to hear storytellers.
6 We depend on the services of libraries.

6 When voters don't support the libraries
1 when people read less on paper
5 when movies become their distant storytellers
2 when they rent entertainment from the store
4 when fewer children grow up to be readers
3 libraries still should be one of our choices.

3 Libraries can enhance our choices.
6 We pluck books from shelves of libraries
4 and bring them home to the avid readers.
1 There is something special about holding paper
2 and not plastic from the store.
5 There is something about close storytellers.

5 We are all storytellers.
3 Each of us will make our media choices.
2 Each of us will shop at their favorite store.
6 Each of us can be enriched by libraries
1 Each of us can delight on paper
4 Each of us can be multi-media readers.

4 Computers can increased access for readers.
5 Computers can have games with storytellers.
1 Computers can print our knowledge on paper.
3 Computers can expand our choices.
6 Computers can be used by all in libraries.
2 Computers are part of the changes in store.

2 But what if a solar flare is in store
4 and disrupts the connections of electronic readers.
6 Will the knowledge in the libraries
5 all the powerful chronicles of storytellers
3 all the power-dependent players of media choices
1 will anything be left on paper?

2-5 What is in store for our storytellers?
4-3 Will our readers preserve their choices?
6-1 Will libraries depend less and less on paper?

Sestina:

1. It is a French form. With repetitions of end words.
2. Seven stanzas. Six sixains and envoy tercet. Total 39 lines.
3. Originally the Sestina had restrictions on meter and syllables per line. These rules have pretty much vanished due to the difficulty of the form.
4. The poem rotates the end words in first stanza in a certain order in the next stanzas. In the envoy the six words are used two per line words 2-5 4-3 6-1 is the usual pattern.
5. The word order in the stanzas are:

1-2-3-4-5-6
6-1-5-2-4-3
3-6-4-1-2-5
5-3-2-6-1-4
4-5-1-3-6-2
2-4-6-5-3-1