

# AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

A FREE COLUMN FOR NEWSPAPERS BY TED KOOSER, POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2006  
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## American Life in Poetry: Column 623

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Here's a poem by John Stanizzi, who lives in Connecticut, in which we get a good look inside middle-school culture in the 'sixties. But is it really any different today? This poet's most recent book is *Hallelujah Time!* (Big Table Publishing, 2015).

### Cry To Me

We walked through some heartache in '62.  
Gary liked Teresa but Teresa  
asked Elizabeth to tell Peter that  
she really wanted to go out with him  
but Peter had been making out with Jane  
in the theater, celebrating their  
one month anniversary, so that was  
out, and even though Jane broke up with Pete,  
Peter kept asking Gail to talk with Jane  
which Gail wouldn't do because she'd told  
Brenda that she thought that Peter was cute  
but Brenda wasn't listening to a word,  
wrapped up in lonely teardrops shed for Greg.  
The waters of 8<sup>th</sup> grade were never still.

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