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Time-Zone Poems

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Time-Zone Poems

In Stanley Fish's *How to Write a Sentence* (2005), he suggests writing across time zones: past perfect, past, present, future. Here's his example: **We ate the pizza** [past] **after we had finished the job** [further/perfect past], **and now we're getting ready to go home** [present] **where we will finish the day eating ice cream** [future]. The following poems are based on this pattern.

Bob De Smith

We ducked in from the rain,
After we had gathered all the seat cushions,
And now we're at the window
Where we'll count the lightning strikes like heartbeats.

We got up early
After the night had turned cold
And now we're shivering
By a small campfire,
Weighing the risks of coffee.

We picked the fruit,
Pears,
After deploying the stepladder,
One by one handing them down—
Me up and you down—
And into the pail.
And now we are carrying them to the picnic table,
Where we will sort them like tokens—
Now, later, never.