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Sonnet: To Nick

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Sonnet: To Nick*

Sonnet to a teacher who stole a son of the soil
(for Nick Van Til) "who," said a former student, "was our model."
He came to teach where most had come to find
Good soil. The boy who'd jumped the running creeks
Now listens to his prof whene'er he speaks.
He lights the spark within the farm boy's mind.
"He's not," says Dad, "one of our plain-folks kind.
He thinks too much about those ancient Greeks.
His words confuse boys off the farm two weeks
And scrunched in desks too small for their behind."
But son with dirt still caked behind the ears
Begins to see afar another soil
That needs a plow as sharp as ancient spears.
He sees an earth with heresies the foil,
And with the prof Van Til he'd spend his years
Attacking words like weeds, with steady toil.

Mike Vanden Bosch

**Nick Van Til, professor of philosophy, watched Dordt College grow from its beginning in 1955. Indeed, he contributed greatly to its growth in many disciplines, including the fine arts. The sonnet was written in his honor.*