

## Clown Camp® Poems

*This week is over, I'm as tired as can be,  
I must leave this magic world and go back to reality.*

*The names here are funny, the faces are too,  
But there's a special kind of love that seems to shine right thru.*

*I've made a lot of new friends-they're of a special kind.  
They are sharing and caring, and that is hard to find.*

*Oh, they're silly and nonsensical, and make you want to laugh,  
The did such funny, far-out things-and that was just the staff!*

*Hits and spits, and making soap and lots of real neat stuff,  
And as a first time camper, boy I just couldn't get enough.*

*Juggling, Mime 101, and how to paint your face-  
It went on faster and faster, I couldn't keep up the pace.*

*I learned so much and did so much-my head is in a spin.  
Now how did they say to twist that balloon, I hope I can do it again.*

*I had a lot of questions when I came on Friday night.  
Now I have a lot of answers, if I can just get them right.*

*But there is an answer I really must know, it's worrying my interior,  
Which one of these over 300 folks is the one called "Mother Inferior"?*

*North, Old Main, Hutch and Angell, and dear old Whitney Hall,  
Are standing quiet and silent now-but didn't we have a ball?*

*So here I stand with my bags all packed, with memories fond and dear,  
But I know it's only 51 weeks till I can come back again next year!!  
(Robin Estes-Illinois (1989)*

The following Poem was written by Kansas participant Jim John in 1993)

### **"A Pome"**

*I came to camp to learn to be  
A clown in every way.  
I worked real hard, I read my books,  
I studied night and day.*

*I took tough sounding courses  
like 'Balloonology'.  
Then twisted and sculpted the best I could  
so T. Myers would be proud of me.*

*I shopped each time the store was open  
with all the rest of the class.  
For the perfect clothes and makeup.  
It was a real pain in the \_ \_ \_ \_ BEHIND!*

*It seemed that every way I turned  
There was something new to try.  
There was something else to learn,  
Or another thing to buy.*

*But still not matter what I did  
It didn't work out right.  
My shoes were always way too big,  
My wig was way too tight.*

*Yes I came to camp to learn to be  
The best clown I could be.  
But with all the stuff they threw at me  
I grew more confused each day.*

*Till, in Whitney's dining hall I cried  
Most folks said, "It's the meal."  
But a wise old clown sat down with me,  
I think he knew how I must feel.*

*He took a dozen marbles out  
From an old bag, worn and brown.  
"Take these only if you really really  
want to be a clown.*

*Hide them here and hide them there.  
Scatter them all around.  
Leave them up by North Hall.  
Leave them in downtown.*

*And when you've lost all your marbles,  
Then you truly will be a clown.*

*Yes, I came to camp to be a clown  
And met a lot of folks.  
There's one thing I found out about them,  
Everyone of them likes good jokes.*

(Jim "Jimbo" John-Kansas)

### **Ode to Richard Snowberg**

*Dr. Richard Snowberg... a true master of the art,  
A clown for all seasons with a mountain size of heart.  
He's the one, the only "Snowflake" and he hails here in La Crosse;  
The founder of Clown Camp®... at UW he's the Boss.*

*The father of caring clowns for Joeys like me,  
A professor of great wisdom and clownology.  
He's authored many books with binders full of knowledge;  
On this wonderful campus... clowns can go to college.*

*With hospital pastoral clowns, our kinship's forever strong,  
A member of the Clown Connection, at St. Luke's Rich does belong.  
There's an aura of healing that amazingly takes place;  
By a caring clown movement blessed by Richard Snowberg's grace.*

*'99 a signature year in Richard Snowberg's life,  
The birth of a grandchild for him and Jan, his wife.  
A bouncing baby boy... Blaise carries on the family name;  
And he has a famous grandpa in the Clown Hall of Fame!*

*Lots of education, two decades of Clown Camp,  
Best tradition in the world... a real tribute to the champ.  
This millennium's no exception and with Buddy "Juggles" Lee;  
They've assembled a Clown Gala for the likes of you and me.*

*An evening of special roasting... from UW he does retire,  
But never from the joys of clowning, all of us he will inspire.  
It is with great pride, Rich, and we want you to know;  
It it weren't for You... clowns like us could never grow.*

*Chorus: Richard Snowberg, "Snowflake" Snowberg;  
A caring clown like him I strive to be;  
His inspiration like no other has had a  
Profound clown impact on me!*  
(Chris Montross- Cedar Rapids, Iowa)

At the conclusion of the 2004 program, participant Mista "Murple May" Wilt sat down and wrote the following poem:

*An old woman I would be if I had not found the clown in me  
Becoming a clown brings me up from being down  
As I powder my face...fantasy becomes my space  
A clown nose...I can pose  
A clown shirt...I begin to flirt  
A clown vest...to look my very best  
And finally clown pants...makes my legs want to dance  
Clown shoes...time to make some news  
Now I'm ready to play...everyday  
When I'm dressed I feel less stressed  
Putting on my clown suit it's time to be a hoot!  
The end result is that I no longer look like an adult!*

*When I feel down and need to be a clown  
I start to powder my face and I can get back to my happy place*  
(Mista Wilt, Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

### **Clown Camp Serenade**

*Hello mother, hello boss  
Here we are at, Clown Camp La Crosse  
Weather's crappie, seldom sunny  
But we don't care cause everyone here is so funny.*

*Food is ample, not always delicious  
But at least we, don't do the dishes  
There's mime and juggling, storytelling,  
And in improv even jumping, stamping, yelling.*

*Always moving, lots of action  
Great ideas, bring satisfaction  
But we're so tired, we could weep  
We don't think the staff has ever heard of sleep.*

*You'll be happy, this is ending  
Thank you for giving, your ears for bending  
So here's our final, grand finale  
We are proud to say that we are from Suds alley.  
(Lolly and Spinky)*