

NOTES

Gun control and school shootings are just two of the topics making headlines across our country. Today's news organizations have more than enough material for their newspapers and televised news reports. We, at The Interp Store, often receive short poems that simply aren't long enough to publish on their own; however, they are still important pieces of literature. With that in mind, we have decided to periodically publish shorter poems by various poets, in hopes of sparking an idea for a potential poetry program. Think of the following poems as thematic program builders. These poems may be performed individually or together as a thematic program on current events. They may be performed by a male or female and should be entered in Poetry Interpretation.

Make No Mistake

By Kameron Lavine

Make no mistake. Guns kill.
 For every child killed with a gun,
 Four children are wounded.
 Two thirds of all teenage suicides
 Involve a firearm.
 Los Angeles, alone, averages 2000 drive-by shootings each month,
 Resulting in approximately 50 deaths,
 And over 50% of all female homicide victims die from firearms.
 Make no mistake. Guns kill.

Ask the parents of those slain in Littleton.
 Ask the parents of those killed in Jonesboro.
 Ask the parents of those murdered in Columbine.
 Today people go duck hunting with AK-47s, UZIs, and SKS rifles.
 Children on tricycles, as young as three, participate in drive-by shootings.
 Make no mistake. Guns are like playing with fire,
 And someone forgot to call 9-1-1.

America—Land of Plenty—
 Plenty of violence initiated by movies and television—
 Plenty of crime initiated by greed—
 Plenty of senseless murders initiated
 By a lackadaisical attitude governing gun control laws.