

**Last Updated**

02/20/2021

**Rich captions and subtitles in video art****Author**

Cody Lake

**Purpose**

In writing rich captions and subtitles for each video work, I provide a fuller experience for audience members who use screen readers and other assistive technologies. Feedback on the depth and utility of captions is welcomed for consideration in future films. Please email [1cody.lake@gmail.com](mailto:1cody.lake@gmail.com) to offer suggestions.

Currently, captions are available in the description section of each video poem hosted on [YouTube](#). They are also available in this document, which can be searched with the links below.

My hope is that I capture the essence of each video by describing each shot and providing the monologue. I will look into auto-generated captioning as well for closed captioning on screen.

**Outline**

[name on the marquee](#)

[vanquish me and i return](#)

[sunset on friday with the swords](#)

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# name on the marquee

**Length: 01:16**

Petal poetry film presents name on the marquee

Video caption:

Head shot of artist Cody Lake from the mouth up. Background of a blue sky with clouds running through. The artist tilts forward and inspects a plant that enters the screen. Cody has a shaved head and wears transparent glasses. Shot change.

A wide shot of a playground that zooms into graffiti on a slide, which says in black marker, "Do not enter." Shot change.

A shot of a playground spinning apparatus with three spaces for entry. The sky in the background is cloudy and gray. A metal fence is behind and a street lined with houses and trees is in the background. The wheels spin on the playground device without being touched. The camera pans to the right and captures grass and more of the playground. Shot change.

The spinning device is seen from the ground and appears taller from this perspective. Gray clouds cover most of the background. Cody appears from the left side of the screen and runs around the device, while reaching up to make the wheels spin. The artist wears dark jeans and a puffy baby blue jacket with a cloud-like pattern. Cody exits the shot and the wheels continue to spin quickly. Shot change.

The camera is shaky and tilts down to the mixed texture of the playground floor. Shot change.

Head shot of artist Cody Lake from the mouth up. The artist blinks a few times and tilts their head. Fluffy clouds are in the background. Shot change.

The credits roll on a black screen.

Subtitles:

Name on the marquee. I wrote this poem. It is about an experience of homelessness. Name on the marquee. Your driver is almost here and I look into the bathroom mirror. Winged eyeliner somehow pulls the corners of my eyes into a smile. I am too tired. Fatal contour joins my name on the marquee of this Sonata. The car groans through tent city. Can you believe people call it that. I mean, I have been homeless, too. That could be anyone sleeping on the 10. That could be me with wind in my hair, tossing and turning on this highway. Name on the marquee.

Credits:

Special thanks to Poetry 180 and the Library of Congress for the article with Poet Laureate Billy Collins, "How to read a poem out loud." A/V captured with iPhone XR by Cody Lake and edited in iMovie

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## vanquish me and i return

**Length: 00:57**

Petal poetry film presents vanquish me and i return

Video caption:

A wide shot of a car lot at dusk. Various trucks and cars are parked along a building wall and a large wooden fence. There is a large dumpster. A maroon van sits with a tan car panel propped up against it. The camera tilts up then down to the ground, which is covered in dusty gravel. Shot change.

A wide shot of Lake Michigan on a sunny afternoon. Most of the screen is rushing water and in the upper right corner there is a partial view of the Chicago skyline. The camera tilts up then down to get a full shot of the water below. The waves undulate continuously. Shot change.

The camera pans across a shot of beach sand. There is a large wooden barrier on the ground. It is painted blue and says in uniform white letters, "Chicago Police Dept Police Line - Do Not Cross." The edges of the barrier are frayed and weathered. The sand is covered in footsteps from birds and humans. Shot change.

Full shot of Lake Michigan water. The waves undulate continuously. Shot change.

A wide shot of a semi-busy street in the afternoon. Across the street sits a man on a bus bench playing what looks like a ukulele. Clouds cover the sky and there is a fenced parking lot in the background. Shot change.

The credits roll on a black screen.

Subtitles:

Vanquish me and i return. This is a poem that I wrote. I wrote it to understand myself a little bit better. Vanquish me and i return. Fear vanished fear returned. This is when I learned that fear was like the tide. Fear receded and I decided with a smile, time to learn how to swim. Found out that I could surf. Beat my own impossible odds. This is who I am. Vanquish me and i return.

Credits:

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# **sunset on friday with the swords**

**Length: 00:44**

Petal poetry film presents sunset on friday with the swords

Video caption:

A wide shot of Lake Michigan from one of the piers. The camera moves along the pier and gets closer to an unused lifeguard lookout. The pier curves to the left side of the screen where there is a partial view of the Chicago skyline. A person on jet skis glides along the water in the background. Shot change.

A wide shot of the rooftops of several apartment buildings on a sunny afternoon. The camera moves quickly across the sky from left to right. The sky is bright with a few clouds. Shot change.

Shot from the ground looking up at three tall sunflowers swaying in the wind. There is a painted wooden fence in the background. Green foliage covers the bottom of the screen. Shot change.

Close up shot of many violet flowers. Shot change.

A wide shot of Lake Michigan from one of the piers. A person on jet skis glides along the water in the background. Shot change.

A wide shot of the rooftops of several apartment buildings on a sunny afternoon. The camera moves quickly across the sky from left to right. Shot change.

Shot from the ground looking up at three tall sunflowers swaying in the wind. The camera pans to the right and there is a tan paneled garage. Shot change.

Close up shot of many violet flowers. Shot change.

The credits roll on a black screen.

Subtitles:

Sunset on friday with the swords. I wrote this poem. I wrote it to understand mindfulness.

Sunset on friday with the swords. It is a superfluously tangerine perfectismous bubblegum

sunset. And it is quite poetic to me that meditation is to float a feather on a glass. Is again I pick up my pen. Sunset on friday with the swords.

Credits:

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