



# SCREAMWORDK



**S C R E A M W O R D K**

presented by

**K (SPIDER) WEBER & FRIENDS**

## INTRO

In 2021, I put together a collection of 8 donated words poems called **TEAMWORDK**. Each poem had a special feature and many people contributed words (& more!) to the poems I wrote.

As the Halloween/autumn season approached that same year, I had another big idea (IYKYK!)... why not create a spine-chilling or fall season-themed collection that “parodies” the 8 poems of TEAMWORDK? I began putting out calls for more donated words for this new project...

## SCREAMWORDK!

As I began the process of putting together SCREAMWORDK, I realized that writing 8 more donated words poems by the end of October would prove a bit exhausting. I decided to only write 2 poems in 2021. I shared them online individually, with a bigger plan on the horizon for the eventual compilation you see here.

These initial poems became the 2nd and 6th poems you will find within this online book! And they share similar qualities with the 2nd and 6th poems in TEAMWORDK!

To truly connect SCREAMWORDK to TEAMWORDK, I would need to write 6 more poems. I decided to write 2 more poems in 2022, then 2 more in 2023 and then 2 more in 2024. Then, SCREAMWORDK would become an online collection in 2024. But... things change and in 2023 I found myself writing more donated words poems. As of this writing, I have tons of words waiting in the wings for the next collaborative project!

In 2022, I had really good intentions as far as writing the next 2 poems. And I did... but I wrote them in 2023. I had more enthusiastic participants! And I noticed that so many people appreciate Halloween and autumnal feels all year long, so there was no judgment when poems 1 & 7 came after my original schedule. In line with my initial scope of this project, these 2 poems emulate some characteristics of TEAMWORDK’s 1st & 7th poems.

I wanted to be ready to write the next 2 poems in 2023 around October/November. As my 2023 writing projects proved to be very centered on donated words poems, I gathered as many words as I could and aimed to write the final 4 SCREAMWORDK poems this year. This produced poems 3, 4, 5 and 8 in this collection; emulating the poems of the same number in TEAMWORDK, but with a creepier bent! Poem 8 is even available in an audio version with the poem read aloud and set to a slightly sinister soundscape I put together.

WHEW! And here we are... these 8 poems exist thanks to the efforts of 58 people from 2021 to 2023. They provided 76 items for me to incorporate into these writings (72 words, a title, a theme, a photo and 1 person selected which words I had to use in a poem!).

I hope these poems bring a chill, a smile, a warm thought, a cool breeze... but most of all I hope it will showcase how poetry can be enlivened when we work together.

**K Weber**  
**November 2023**

# 1

For this first poem (just like the 1st in [TEAMWORDK](#)), I selected 10 words at random from many donated to me in 2022.

Using [random.org/lists](https://random.org/lists) I randomized the list of all words and selected the first 10 that appeared in the results.

## Unsavory

I feel unfinished  
and **finicky**. This,  
even as **equinox**  
**cracks** open in  
hopes to balance  
me; bright light  
and shade. Pristine,

sistine: a history  
of **haint**-filled  
halls **flay** feelings  
that go, **looming**,  
inside the **cemetery**  
of my stomach. I am  
less held-

together and more  
fracture and **fissure**.  
No one's **demised**  
my well-earned  
demise nor my demi-  
tasse as i stir,  
**spiraling**

my poison.

**finicky**

**Charlotte Hamrick**

**equinox**

**Mathew Yates**

**cracks**

**Cecilia Savala**

**haint**

**Kyla Houbolt**

**flay**

**Clint Ladd**

**looming**

**Julie Elder**

**cemetery**

**Merril Smith**

**fissure**

**Jude Marr**

**demised**

**Stephanie Benton**

**spiraling**

**Jenna Mia**

# 2

As with the 2nd poem in [TEAMWORDK](#), I wrote this poem using the dizain poetic form. The words were selected at random from the ones contributed in 2021.

A dizain contains 10 lines. There are 10 syllables in each of these lines. The dizain form has a rhyme scheme of

*ababbccdc*

It was quite fun using this form again, but with a Halloween feel.

More complete information on the dizain can be found at:

[writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/dizain-poetic-form](https://writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/dizain-poetic-form)

## Settling in

Time for all things blustery and scary  
as day ends, **singed**, with **ominous** shadow.  
Moonlight tricks the eye; imaginary  
**poltergeist** announce themselves as **scamps**, glow  
deep, **benthic**, from eyes' corners. They dart, go  
**lurking** in the light and then all's dim. Shriill  
screams haunt our spines with a **tortuous** will  
and **crepitus** fills silence with **snarling**.  
**Demonic** expectations give a chill  
then **exsanguinate** us. Goodnight, darling.

**singed**  
Erik Fuhrer

**ominous**  
Norb Aikin

**poltergeist**  
Natalie Kocsis

**scamp**  
Stephanie Benton

**benthic**  
Cory Funk

**lurking**  
Dawn Vincent

**tortuous**  
Julie Elder

**crepitus**  
Ankh Spice

**snarling**  
Melinda Farrar

**demonic**  
Millie Hudson

**exsanguinate**  
Jenna Mia

# 3

The poem “Diabolical” is a play on the title of the 3rd poem in [TEAMWORDK](#), “Dialectical.”

The words in this poem were chosen with my favorite randomizing tool (see above) from a pool of word donations sent in 2023.



## Diabolical

**Scarf** down hunger  
while **the horror**  
chases you. While  
the **nefarious wraith**  
chases you, there's a  
**plethora** of dark, hot

thoughts only suitable  
for a **crucible** that  
acts as **abattoir**. Ooze  
brings **levity** in a **spiral**  
as it moves into a new,  
cooled, **fetid** shape.

**scarf**

**Patrick Dorsey**

**the horror**

**Dan Martin**

**nefarious**

**Cassie Coletta**

**wraith**

**Melissa Nunez**

**plethora**

**Norb Aikin**

**crucible**

**Rhona Greene**

**abattoir**

**Jessie Lynn McMains**

**levity**

**Jeff Weber**

**spiral**

**Jenna Mia**

**fetid**

**Nate Southard**

# 4

This poem was formed with 5 words randomly selected from a great, big heap received in 2023. This follows suit with the 4th poem in [TEAMWORDK](#).

Also riffing off that piece, I asked someone to choose an overall theme for this one.

**Keef** provided the topic: **BONES!**

death plays a part

wait in the long  
dark, after the war  
of what was  
**malignant**. once

**morbidity** has lost  
and passed (clean  
as a cricket's night  
whistle): dry and **rake**

your bones. rattle  
where that marrow  
went. beat the old  
doldrums. no more

blood for **blood-**  
**curdling**. but, oh, how  
the self's sound  
howls; **disquieting**

the ragged body  
of night.

**malignant**  
Jasmyn Huff

**morbidity**  
Queen Dee

**rake**  
Tom Snarsky

**bloodcurdling**  
Erik Fuhrer

**disquieting**  
Joe Liston

# 5

In this poem, I channeled the spirit of [TEAMWORDK](#)'s Poem 5. I invited **Karen Pierce Gonzalez** to select 8 of the words sent by others in 2023.

## The Happening

A late **cackle** scrapes open  
the front door. Wind walks in

and out: a **fantasm** pacing the porch  
and foyer. Follow the **crunch**

of leaves to the gate. It plays  
eerily; a **calliope** with din's bent,

low tones. **Murky** mirrors flood  
puddles but show no ghost. Fear

enters the air. A **cornucopia** over-  
turns on a nervous November's table:

the spills and spoils abundant. Anxiety  
has **coagulated** any sense of smooth

safety. No ease breathes here; life's  
climbed back into broken coffin, atop

toppled **catafalque**.

**cackle**  
Kiley Lee

**fantasm**  
Preston Smith

**crunch**  
Melissa Flores Anderson

**calliope**  
Robert Frede Kenter

**murky**  
Millie Hudson

**cornucopia**  
Cheryl Paquay

**coagulated**  
Dave

**catafalque**  
Glenn Barker

A large, stylized orange number 6 is positioned on the left side of the image. The number is thick and has a modern, rounded design.

In 2021, I was lucky enough to have **Hokis** contribute the title to this poem. The 6th poem of [TEAMWORDK](#) also had a donated title!

“When the Leaves Fall Up” gave such an inspired feel to the resulting poem!

## When the Leaves Fall Up

You hear the trees whistle  
slow and feel a **droplet** of spittle  
that's not a drizzle

of night rain. **Crisp** leaves eat  
each step as feet  
feel **possessed** by the treat

of a candy-colored trick. Mud  
sucks shoe from sock and a **blood-**  
**bath** ensues as blisters shock. Flood

of **disembodied** pieces of bark  
howl as a **banshee** in the dark.  
An **eldritch** evening is afoot, stark,

as the wind races night trains.  
We have lost our power: brains  
maddened by what remains

in what we cannot see. Chills  
**inundate** our veins with thrills  
and **malevolent** intent as the ills

of daylight will soon cast their light.  
Roots and branches scream with delight  
as they reach upwards to hang tight

to forever at midnight.

**droplet**  
**Misty Hudson**

**crisp**  
**Norb Aikin**

**possessed**  
**Millie Hudson**

**bloodbath**  
**Jenna Mia**

**disembodied**  
**Merril Smith**

**banshee**  
**Elodie Barnes**

**eldritch**  
**Patrick Whited**

**inundate**  
**Gordon Akerson**

**malevolent**  
**Melinda Farrar**

The seventh poem of [TEAMWORDK](#) was an ekphrastic poem; a poem work based on a piece of artwork.

In 2022, “Standstill” was created. This ekphrastic work exists thanks to the reference photograph by **Paul Brookes** titled “Chapel Eye Morning.”

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(image included with artist's permission!)



## Standstill

A **baleful** silhouette  
makes an attempt to impale  
an uneasy, luck-worn-

down landscape. Without **waul**  
or screech; the **tenebrous**  
throat of it has no ache. Light

like an eye's unclouded sclera  
barely brightens the forms  
of trees and **ghastly**

asymmetry. Not one wink  
or flirt, but breaths hold deeply  
through **mid-air**. The sense

of a senseless **batty-fang** hangs  
beyond the building but no  
one's been harmed. Yet,

await no **changeling** here: even  
as the only din in the dim- a vague  
giggle- is heard around two

odd, bright spots and an out-  
line flutters  
away.

**baleful**

**Kate Garrett**

**waul**

**Tiffany Sciacca**

**tenebrous**

**Patrick Whited**

**ghastly**

**Melinda Farrar**

**mid-air**

**Jamie Way**

**batty-fang**

**Tiffany M Storrs**

**changeling**

**Heather Sweeney**



For this final poem, I emulated yet another feature from the [TEAMWORDK](#) project. The 8th poem in that collection was set to music and can be heard at the 22:46 mark in the [TEAMWORDK audiobook](#).

“Possession Blues” is a 2023 donated words poem I wrote for which I also read aloud and produced the creepy sound effects in the background.

**LISTEN TO POSSESSION BLUES HERE:**  
<http://tinyurl.com/possblues>

## Possession Blues

Waiting host to seasoned ghost:

“Where will I be  
when I get overtaken?  
A **harvest** inside this body?”

“Most,” said the **ghoulish** guest,  
“won’t know nor have **temerity**  
to ask about the **crypt** they could become.  
Too **macabre** to question **flagrantly**.”

“But I feel **discombobulated**.  
Kinda numb and haunt-adjacent.  
I can sense the most **deciduous**  
turning vicious, **bloody viscous**.”

“You’ve got the **Possession Blues!**  
That uneasy chill of what might be.  
Obsessed and stressed, but not yet possessed.  
But you want that moment so badly.”

“You’ve got the **Possession Blues!**  
That uneasy chill of what might be.  
Dazed for days but your eyes aren’t glazed.  
Still human with a will so free.”

The person talking to the air asks:  
“How long have you lived, er, been illusory?”  
The phantom’s voice, **susurrus** in tone:  
“You don’t want to know about me.”

A chill pours over the host’s pale face.  
The ghost’s, ominous, if that was possibility.  
With the sneer of a **pumpkin**’s glow  
the living shudders in the fading candle’s heat.

“Bet you feel terrified and now you wonder  
exactly who’s spell I’m over or under.  
I hate to say the truth so candidly:  
but this ghost’s not like what you see on TV.”

“You’ve got the **Possession Blues!**  
I am just a graveyard employee.  
‘Ghost’ is just my occupation.  
I just happen to live, yes live, mysteriously.”

“You’ve got the **Possession Blues!**  
You can’t apply. You won’t be like me.  
You think you’ve got that **spectral** somethin’  
but the simple fact is... nope... not happening

(but I am charmed you wish to do this  
professionally).

**Jen Bockrath** - possession  
**Mathew Yates** - harvest  
**Stephanie Benton** - ghoulish  
**Douglas Menagh** - temerity  
**Casi Lombardo** - crypt  
**Toni Hensley-Vitaoe** - macabre  
**Chris Griffith** - flagrantly  
**Daniel Ellcey** - discombobulated  
**Sara Matson** - deciduous  
**Leah Callen** - bloody  
**Misty Hudson** - viscous  
**Tamre Martin** - susurrus  
**Linda Crate** - pumpkin  
**Merril Smith** - spectral

## THANK YOU

Huge thanks to all 58 people who took time out of their lives to assist me in the creation of yet another cool poetry project; especially one with a theme! Your contributions truly challenged me in the best way and I am so pleased with the poems that took shape.

I'm quite lucky to have lots of returning word donors and some new ones, too! When I began putting together donated words poems in 2018, I had no idea we would be here writing poems together 5 years later. Well over 300 people have sent me well over 700 words (& more) as of the last project... those numbers are likely much bigger now. I can tell you the spreadsheet I maintain for these special projects surpassed the 1000th row in the process of compiling SCREAMWORDK!!!

Thanks a million billions to all who continue to support and encourage my donated words poems and to those who also create new poetry experiences with their prompts and interactions that involve and engage others.

It is truly fantastic to see how much other people enjoy the opportunity to work on a project that includes a collective foundation or to write from another person's writing cues! I am someone who loves to play a part in so many realms of writing! These occasions are always memorable and mean so much!

Thank you for reading SCREAMWORDK! As I said in THIS ASSEMBLY (2019):

*It never gets old when people say they can't wait to see how I crafted a poem containing their word selection. One word can change a day, a mood, the world.*

THANK YOU SO MUCH AGAIN!!!

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



**K WEBER** lives, writes, and continues to allow herself to heal, love and live-and-learn somewhere in the Midwest. SCREAMWORDK is her 10th online, free, self-published poetry project. Her poetry has found its way into *The Hooghly Review*, *the minison project*, *Writer's Digest* & more! Her photos and digital photo collage work has appeared in *Barren Magazine* and *Nightingale & Sparrow*. Her book reviews have appeared in *Empty Mirror*.

K received her BA in Creative Writing (with an emphasis in poetry) from Miami University in 1999. She also earned minors in French and Computer Information Systems.

More publishing credits and access to all of her online book projects at:

[kweberandherwords.com](http://kweberandherwords.com)

## SPECIAL NOTES

SCREAMWORDK is just one of many writing efforts I have hosted since 2018 that involve donated words and more collaborative pieces from many, many contributors. I wanted to get some feedback from those who have taken part, as I look at these projects from a different angle!

I have featured a few quotes that were sent to me! in total, I received 25 (!!!) quotes and will be sharing all of them again in the promotion of similar, future collaborative projects.

You can read all of these most gracious quotes in this [special supplementary companion](#)

Want to share your experiences and thoughts on the donated words poems? Would you like to write a short “blurb” or quote to be added to my growing list of helpful comments from participants and readers? You can connect with me through social media:

K Weber on Instagram:

[instagram.com/midwesternskirt](https://www.instagram.com/midwesternskirt)

Donated Words Poetry on Bluesky:

[@donatedwords.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/donatedwords.bsky.social)

Much appreciation to all who have offered kind words and insight!

hurking

NICKY

XSANGUINAL

COAGULATED

SNAILING

LOOMING

BENTHIC

CREPITUS

CACKLE