

# POETRY NOW!

## "Important Person" poem

### **Man and Dog**

Who's this--alone with stone and sky?  
It's only my old dog and I--  
It's only him; it's only me;  
Alone with stone and grass and tree.

What share we most--we two together?  
Smells, and awareness of the weather.  
What is it makes us more than dust?  
My trust in him; in me his trust.

Here's anyhow one decent thing  
That life to man and dog can bring;  
One decent thing, remultiplied  
Till earth's last dog and man have died.

By SIEGFRIED SASSOON

*© Siegfried Sassoon (1886-1967). Sassoon was an English poet best known for his gritty, heart-wrenching poetry about World War I. For more of his poems, check out Collected Poems, 1908-1956 or The War Poems of Siegfried Sassoon from your local library.*

### **Poetry Idea:**

Picture yourself alone with the most important person/animal/thing in the world to you. Write a poem along the lines of Sassoon's:

*First verse:* "Here I am with . . ." Briefly describe where you are and who/what you are with.

*Second verse:* "What do we share the most?" Describe what brings you together; what you share, what you do for each other.

*Third verse:* "Here's one decent thing . . ." Try to pinpoint the one thing that makes your bond most important (in the above poem, it is "trust").

Sassoon rhymes his poem, but you don't have to. Just make sure you use words that describe exactly what you are seeing and feeling.

Prose © Joyce Sidman 2012 *May be copied for classroom use but may not be reprinted or resold for commercial purposes*