Cinquain

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broken and still leave a good play, his conclusions as to the number of teeth women have (fewer than men), what direction the wind should be in order to conceive a healthy child (northwest), why some babies turn out to be a girl babies (they didn’t have the energy to be boy babies) and a cure for insomnia in elephants (rubbing their shoulders with salt, olive oil, and warm water). Many modern characters are copied from the Greek: James Bond has been mentioned; from Aristophanes’ The Frogs, we get Froggie the Gremlin (his magic twanger is an updated version of a Greek lute), from the Tales of the Golden Ass, we get Francis the Talking Mule; from Hercules, Superman (master of the Greek whisking-away technique), and so on ad infinitum.

The Greek contribution to our life and culture has indeed been so pervasive that no one can be considered worthy of the adjective “educated” unless he had read and learned to love even the shabbiest works of the great Greeks. (It’s also a good test of one’s manly endurance.) My hope is that my reader will now have a useful guide to Greek literature in my small essay, and that his enjoyment and understanding of the Greek literature will be somewhat enriched thereby.

Cinquain

David Overby

English, Sr.

Glass-like
Mirror water
Lies coally reflecting
Looks back at you as frightened eyes
Widen