

In September of 2018, Taylor Mali asked friend and fellow poet Jared Singer to improvise a 90-second poem off the top of his head based on a random selection of Metaphor Dice. Below is the poem he improvised. Please note: You do not have to be able to do this in order to enjoy Metaphor Dice. But if you can, by all means, do.

TIME IS A DESPERATE PARTY CLOWN

Time is a desperate party clown, which is to say,
the difference between failure and laughter
is always a knife's edge, and the difference between
a party and nobody-is-ever-going-to-remember-this
is the single honk of a red nose.

Time moves forward no matter what you want.

And party clowns—those simple, majestic,
and most definitely sad people willing to dress up
entirely to make someone else happy—
have no choice but to move forward.

When your paycheck comes from someone else laughing
you don't get to be comfortable, you don't get to be secure.
You only have to be hungry. You are desperate.

This is who you are. Time makes a joke of all of us.

But clowns try to find the human in the joke.
They take the time out of our lives and make this
something pure, something beautiful,
something worth remembering.

—Jared Singer

