

[Home](#)

[Summer 2009](#)

[Spring 2009](#)

[Autumn 2008](#)

[Summer 2008](#)

[Spring/Summer 2008](#)

[Winter/Spring 2008](#)

[Autumn 2007](#)

[Summer 2007](#)

[Spring 2007](#)

[Winter 2007](#)

[Autumn 2006](#)

[Summer 2006](#)

[Spring 2006](#)

[Winter 2006](#)

[Fall 2005](#)

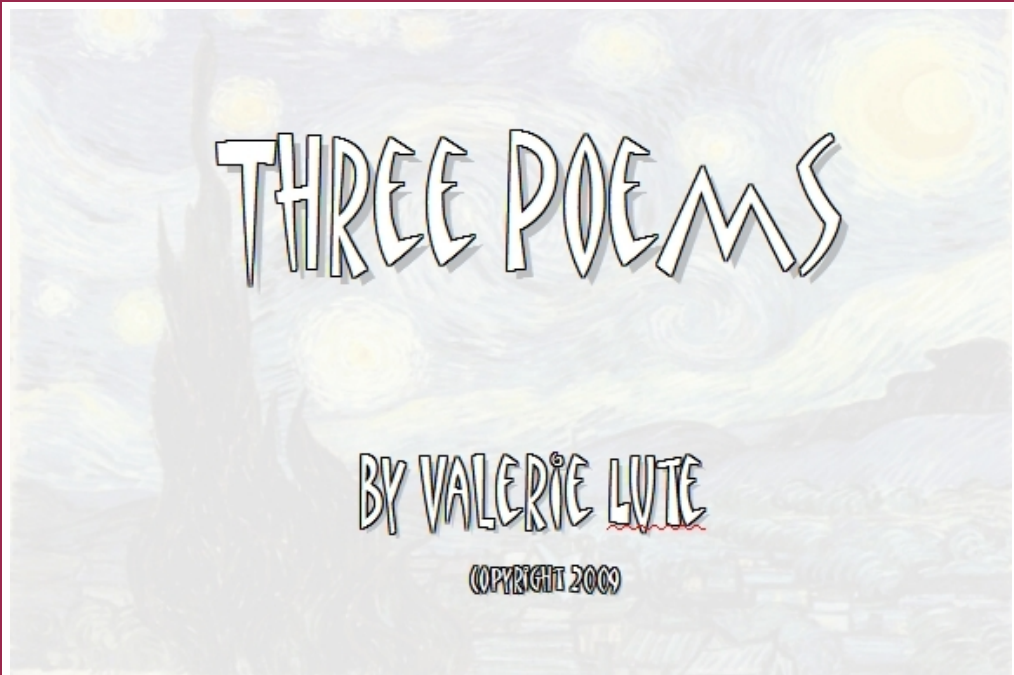
[Summer 2005](#)

[Editor's Note](#)

[Guidelines](#)

[SNR's Writers](#)

[Contact](#)



### **A Lovely Crunch**

We ice dance as the sun sets,  
twirling under silver trees,  
as prisms burst underfoot,  
and two snowflake hearts sing out,  
*love, love*, like the bells that ring.

### **Thanksgiving Dinner**

A long oak table,  
stretches for miles.  
Cold air is chewed,  
swallowed,  
while gleaming forks  
and knives slice  
words short.

### **Lottery Ticket**

My brother shows me a newspaper clipping  
found in our thirty-five year old dictionary.  
I'm puzzled by both sides until he directs me  
to the one with a long list of dates and numbers.  
I've seen this paper before, but never cared to notice  
it's the 1951-born draft lottery.  
My brother points out May fifth, number three-hundred and one,  
a number high enough to guarantee no service.

I think of my father, who was already pensive and withdrawn,  
like his father who saw too much in another war, and for most of his life  
kept a folder full of forms for government medals, never honored  
nor thrown away, just locked up inside a filing cabinet,  
locked up with every memory, every feeling.  
The most my father ever saw of war fits on a slip of paper,  
like the most he ever saw of love.

---

---

**Copyright 2009, Valerie Lute.** © This work is protected under the U.S.  
copyright laws. It may not be reproduced, reprinted, reused, or altered without the  
expressed written permission of the author.

---

**Valerie Lute** is an undergraduate student at Penn State University  
studying English. Her poetry has been published in the student  
publications *Ivy Leaf Magazine* and *Hard Freight*. In 2009 she won third  
place in the Edward J. Nichols Memorial Award in Prose Writing, a  
student award at Penn State University.