

## **Joseph Kleponis – Three Poems**

### **Boston Boy's Love Song**

Castle Island  
houses no castle  
and isn't an island.

Dorchester Heights  
isn't in Dorchester,  
it's in Southie instead.

The Battle of Bunker Hill  
didn't take place there,  
it was on Breed's Hill, not far away.

All are facts  
Boston school boys  
once knew.

So as a Boston boy  
through and through  
I thought that when you said  
you didn't love me,  
the opposite was true.

### **Watching for Sputnik I, October 1957**

Day after day the news built to a peak;  
We were charged with uneasy inertia.  
From where we stood on the third floor porch  
Of the three decker, we could hardly see  
The horizon. We wished the street lamps  
Would dim so the evening sky would darken.  
Over the other rooftops, we could see  
A distant flickering. Was it stars  
Rising into view in October's night,  
Or was it unnatural lights, a sign,  
Perhaps bringing us to a turning point,  
A moment when the arc of our narrative  
Would change so that nothing going forward  
Would ever be the same? Our thoughts, our dreams,  
Our fears, full of newness, we did not know  
That an inflection point is just that  
A point on a graph marking a turn

Where concave can turn to convex  
Until there is another turn  
In the graph that stretches to eternity.

## **Visions of Glory**

The altar of war is set:  
Uniforms hang neatly  
In our lockers,  
Shoulder pads and helmets  
Are laid out before us.

We circle in tight  
Our voices rise  
In primal, prayerful ululations.

Then, there is the clattering of cleats  
As we rise from the darkness of the tunnel  
Breaking for light.

We are warriors,  
Fortified by myth  
And the metaphor of sports,  
Seeking fame,  
Spurred on by visions of glory.

**Joseph Kleponis** lives north of Boston, Massachusetts. His poetry has appeared in numerous journals including, *Boston Literary Magazine*, *Eucalypt*, *First Literary Review -East*, *Methuen Life*, *Muddy River Poetry Review* and *Wilderness House Literary Review*. *Truth's Truth*, a book of his poems, was released in 2021 by Kelsay Books.