

WHAT IF?

Glen Arbour.....PGI.....It's true
It's been an awesome day, I can feel it, can't you?
With Bristol, ALC. Aliant all here
This could be the one, the very best year.
If you ask Brad Conrad how his day is so far,
He'll tell you how Patrick O'Regan is sending him home
in a car.

We saw a lot of swing styles, slicing and hooking
When I saw the St.FX team.....well at least they're
good looking
CBC is here, Don, Peter and Jim, with stories to tell
It turns out you can have a *swing* for radio as well.

It strikes me as I look at all the grandeur and beauty
That I am grateful to understand all that this could be.

People together, laughing and swinging.
I think I saw Myra Freeman dancing and singing.

To come together as one for such an important cause
Allowed me for the moment this afternoon to pause.

I asked myself, what if we couldn't understand the signs?
The letters all scrumpled, the bungled up lines.
What if confusion was my regular stance?
What if I never...ever... had a chance?

We read to learn, to grow, to change.
We read to lift up, we read to arrange
The numerous things we do everyday
What would happen to us if our brains got in the way?

We stand on the first tee and read the score card
We read the signs, the wind, the grass and it's not hard.
We read the faces of teammates, the line of the green.
They smile and clap when we strike it so clean.

What if our brains were always searching for clear,
Searching for understanding that never comes near?

With Shelagh Rogers and Don Connelly telling
stories and jokes
What if they read it somewhere.....and we were the hoax?
What if the menu made no sense at all?

What if I am right....and my brain power was too small
Like a hook or a slice that goes too far left or too far
right?
What if a letter or book or paper filled us with fright?

We take for granted the things that come naturally.
Imagine, if you can, not feeling Free.
Trapped by the gift so many seem to possess
If only we could make *these* letters make sense.

But.....what if we had help to find our way through?
What if Literacy Nova Scotia knew just what to do?
There is an answer to all the scrambled letters
on the page,

There are people who can help no matter what your age.
Well we could take courses and classes and online
tutorials
We could write letters to the paper, we could even
write editorials.

When the world became hard and life wasn't ok
We would show up with our **big** brains and read the
problem away.

The gift you gave today was more than the money,
The gift of literacy to just one makes their cloudy life
sunny.

The ability to read when you didn't think you could.
Well there is nothing that can replace that....not one thing
ever should.

So put the clubs in the trunk
Turn the car towards home
Go read a book to your kids
So that they are never ever alone.



Bryan Fader
PGI Poet Laureate 2008