

Why do you think poets write poetry about the Holocaust? You might find an answer in the following poem which, though not directly related to the Holocaust itself, gives poetry a very special role in our lives. Can you explain this role in your own words by using some examples from at least one of several Holocaust poems which we have read together?(e.g., *The Role Call*; *Forced March*; *Chorus of the Unborn*; )

**TODAY IS A DAY OF GREAT JOY**  
BY VICTOR HERNANDEZ CRUZ

when they stop poems  
in the mail & clap  
their hands & dance to  
them  
when women become pregnant  
by the side of poems  
the strongest sounds making  
the river go long  
it is a great day  
as poems fall down to  
movie crowds in restaurants  
in bars  
when poems start to  
knock down walls to  
choke politicians  
when poems scream &  
begin to break the air  
that is the time of  
true poets that is  
the time of greatness  
a true poet aiming  
poems & watching things  
fall to the ground  
it is a great day