**Eating Poetry**

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Ink runs from the corners of my mouth.

There is no happiness like mine.

I have been eating poetry.

The librarian does not believe what she sees.

Her eyes are sad

and she walks with her hands in her dress.

The poems are gone.

The light is dim.

The dogs are on the basement stairs and coming up.

Their eyeballs roll,

their blond legs burn like brush.

The poor librarian begins to stamp her feet and weep.

She does not understand.

When I get on my knees and lick her hand,

she screams.

I am a new man.

I snarl at her and bark.

I romp with joy in the bookish dark.

Questions

1. Describe the tone of the speaker within the first stanza using evidence from the poem.
2. Identify an example of imagery from the poem above. What is the effect / significance of this description?
3. The dogs should be understood as a symbol. What do you think they symbolize for the speaker of this poem especially considering he turns into one by Stanza 5.
4. What role does the librarian play within the poem? How is she contrasted with our speaker?
5. By the poem’s end do you believe that our speaker is literally eating poetry? What might be the metaphorical meaning of “eating poetry”, and the result of this action?
6. List one other device used within the poem that has not been mentioned in any of the above questions. Cite the line and the device below.
7. Write a theme statement for the poem above.