

Beverly Fields Burnette is a poet, storyteller (current President of the NC Association of Black Storytellers), and a retired school social worker. She enjoys fun and creative ways of combining cultural insights with storytelling/folktales, and original and historical poetry for children and general audiences. She has also led character-education, self-esteem and drug-prevention programs for churches, schools and community groups. Born in Rocky Mount, NC, Burnette is published in several national poetry anthologies and for the past several years, she has been involved in writing poetry for the NPR/PRI Kwanzaa program *A Season's Griot*. She often performs with other storytellers, drummers, musicians and poets.

Tracking Lines in the Land of Nazca

In the Peruvian desert,
 they took shovel in hand,
 scraped the vast sandy landscape,
 til strange geoglyphs and lines
 galloped off,
 like stallioned horsemen
 meeting sunset altars
 on high cliffs.

Lines criss-crossing in helter-skelter motifs,
 never completing journeys:
 cartoon-like drawings that stand guard,
 display views one can only witness
 from an aerial eye.

A primitive people
 busy, doing what and why—
 a single century before the Holy Cross,
 and seven before Columbus vaulted monstrous Atlantic waves
 to discover LAND!

Now new archaeologists dig deep,
 as they elevate mysterious theories,
 and brush layers of dust from dry soil;
 unearth the ancient dead,
 who were buried sitting up
 without their heads,—
 heads that might have offered confession
 a true exposure.