

Grades Are Not Money

Your grade is not a bounty paid
for capturing the answer and bringing it dead or alive,
dumping it headfirst into my bucket.
I don't want my car designed by an engineer
who didn't learn to engineer
but, by chance, stumbled on the answer.

Your grade is not given in trade
for good behavior or extra credit, without learning,
like nice clothes on a corpse.
I don't want my child taught by a teacher
who didn't learn to teach
but did some easy project and came to class on time.

Your grade is not snatched in a raid
from gullible village guards who failed to protect it,
then roaring, raising plunder overhead.
I don't want my surgery done by a doctor
who didn't learn to doctor
but got the answers from a website or a friend.

—Submitted by Vadim Ponomarenko, San Diego State University

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