

## A Surrealist Game for Two

By Christopher Cokinos

Drawing on a surrealist poem technique, two poets are needed to write two-line conditional poems. The first poet writes a hypothetical statement beginning with “When” or “If” while the second poet, not seeing the first line, completes it with a statement in the future or conditional tense. You can do this yourself but writing, over a long period of time and forgetting, several lines of both types and then assembling them at random.

Examples:

If the sun set before the trees, the old would brandish glossy dreams.

If there were no guillotine, wasps would take off their corsets.

--Adapted from *The Little Book of Surrealist Games*