My poems in the ND Review come from a larger project that features dramatic monologues spoken to the camera of independent film director Roman Gibbs as well as other poems about Gibbs himself as he shoots his documentary Late Bloomers. Gibbs, his film, and the speakers are inventions. The late bloomers help me explore issues like definitions of success, legacy, mortality, and a sense of purpose—how one might find it, renew it, and sustain it at any age.

I seem to work best writing poems within a narrative framework, which, for me, serves as a jazz arrangement within which to improvise and tell stories. My first collection of poems, Enterprise, Inc., took for its fictional setting a corporation (Enterprise) and explored the lives of accountants who work there. Its first person speaker plays a role we’ve seen before in literature from at least as early as Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales, a narrator who serves as a conduit for the tales of a wide variety of fellow travelers.