

# TAKE HEART

## A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

This week's poem by the late Constance Hunting, a Maine poet and editor, describes a monkey she has trained to sit and write. What the monkey represents, she is not here to explain, of course. All we know is that she admires the "strange marks" the monkey makes, and that the two of them work together.

### The Pet

*by Constance Hunting*

O say see  
look at my lit  
tle monkey  
she so puzzled and charming  
with that almost human frown

she sits in her lit  
tle chair  
at her little table  
she holds a pen  
she is writing

making strange  
marks on the white  
petalled paper  
I am very proud  
of her

she is coming  
along very nicely  
but sometimes  
chatters more  
than I prefer

and would tear up the page  
chew it to bits  
did I not interfere  
always calmly and stroke  
her down

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