

# CARE LEAVER

And here's to you - brilliantly benevolent one -  
For getting up each morning and getting stuff done

For (even when things seemed tough)  
Not complaining about the rough

Crossing; or the choppy waters -  
Who seized the chances when you could: lost sons,  
daughters,

Who had first to search to be understood:  
Who could have got lost in the underwood

Who could now be faceless, nameless,  
Who are here against the odds, not rudderless

Who've given your best and then some (big nods)  
Who are our *inspiration* - who know the true meaning

Of the expression *carpe diem*  
Who've broken free from *seeing themselves as others see  
them*.

To you on this day of fortune when the leaves  
Are turning, oranges and reds; when leaves take leave of  
the trees,

To you whose faced the weight and the heave of life,  
**To you and you and you** who cared, who took your  
leave.

The lights are on your face; your grace. How you turned  
It around. You shine. You glow. Believe it to be so. Un-  
spurned.

By **Jackie Kay**

Scotland's National Poet

Penned for the CELCIS Get Write In competition