GRADE INFLATION: A Short Confessional

With a heap of papers
& limited time
how can I churn out grades
without provoking whines?

Should I pretend
effort alone counts –
or be honest & acknowledge
ignorance if it's pronounced?

When dealing with such questions it's best seek the advice of an aged expert:

Jim Beam!

[1 hr. & a few shots of whisky later]

Okay - back to the business of grading!

[clearing throat while leaning on a chair]

Well, this attempt at erudition looks like an "A" & perhaps this gibberish is a "B".

[shuffling the papers randomly]

These poor constructions are mediocre – doesn't that translate into a "C"?

[Gerping loudly while dealing with a particularly odious paper]

This piece of plagiarism deserves an "F" & this document is so lame that nobody sober could give it a passing grade.

[Pausing in reflection, then clearing throat]

Wait a minute!

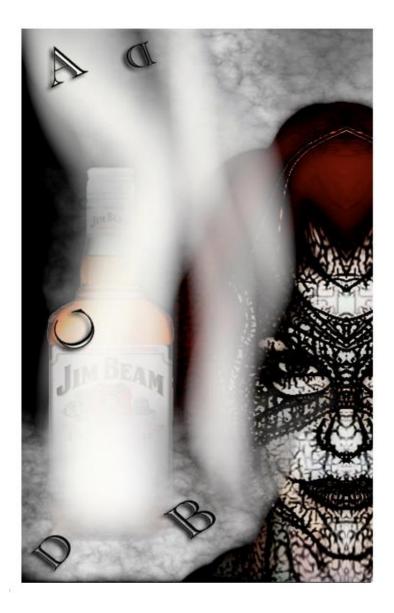
If I grade too strictly won't my teacher evaluations fall?

Isn't it safer to give lots of "B"s

so any criticism can be stalled?

[swishing another glass of whiskey while gazing at a stack of papers]

Even if most papers are trash
shouldn't I play it safe?
The less people bitch,
the more time I can devote to
my literary itch:
& don't students adore high grades?



Satoru: (scratching his head) I'm not sure how to answer these questions.

Liao: (shuddering) I detest spineless teachers like this!

Tim: Hey, don't blame the instructors. The whole educational system is dysfunctional. Most teachers are simply ordinary jerks who are trying to get by creating as little trouble as possible.

Melissa: Perhaps we should question the whole notion of grading. Is there really any need to churn out A,B,Cs in a system that rewards mediocracy?

