

Sample Submission #1– From the Adventures of Waburi (pronounced “wah-boo-ree”) by Edward L. Powe ©. This is one of a number of story poems from Melanesia which deals with the life, legends, and history of the Black peoples of that region of the world.

The **most** exciting tales e'er told,
On **either** land or sea,
Are **those** of a **Melanesian** youth
By the **name** of **Waburi**.

"The Carl Incident"

*The white men often told us that
We lived in savagery,
And that without their bible we'd,
Know only misery.*

*They said that we were cannibals
Steeped in idolatry;
For breakfast we ate human flesh
While they had bread and tea.*

*They said that they were Christians who
Had come across the sea,
To bring us their God's blessings and
To end our misery.*

*If you're by chance a Christian and
Think what they said was true,
Just listen to what happened here
In eighteen seventy two!*

*A certain Doctor Murray who
Had settled in Epi,
Invited island villagers
To meet him there at sea.*

They came with their trade items from

*Two islands in the north,
Responding to the summons that
The doctor had sent forth.*

*As eager islanders approached
The point of rendezvous,
Pig iron chunks were thrown on them
By Doctor Murray's crew.*

*For Doctor Murray's "trading ship",
The Carl, was its name,
Had not come there for bartered goods,
But rather human game.*

*So as the hapless natives in
The ocean thrashed about,
The Doctor's crew, like fishermen,
Cast ropes and fished them out.*

*How many drowned at sea that day,
No one will ever know;
But ninety men were rescued and
Subdued and stored below.*

*Imprisoned without food or drink
For two days and a night,
The islanders began to ram
The door with all their might.*

*So Doctor Murray and his crew
Pumped bullets through the door,
And many of the captive men
Fell dead upon the floor.*

*As blood like water flowed and filled
the space beneath that door,*

*The Doctor and his men ceased not,
But fired even more.*

*And even when the screams died down,
They kept it up with glee.
It's difficult to capture here
This "Christian" revelry.*

*That night it seems that Murray and
His crew had had such fun,
The following night they came back and
Repeated what they'd done.*

*Then three days after setting sail
The crew broke through that door.
And counted sixty corpses that
Lay there upon the floor.*

*These dead were tossed into the sea
For ocean fish to eat.
So many were the fish that came
That as an extra treat*

*They bound the men most wounded and
Threw them into the sea.
Then listened to their screams as sharks
Consumed them eagerly.*

*And after shark, both large and small,
Upon the dead did sup,
Murray ordered all his men
To wash and tidy up.*

*How sad the faces of those whom
Of their friends were bereft;*

*For of the **ninety** captives,
There were **only sixteen** left.*

*The **crew** had **whitewashed everything**,
Each **cranny and each nook**,
When **H.M.S. Rosario**
Drew **near to take a look**.*

*An **officer** then **came aboard**
And **then** went **off again**.
He noted **not the bullet holes**
Nor **the nine wounded men**.*

*When **news of what occurred** leaked out,
The **case to judgment** went,
And **Murray** turned **Queen's evidence**
To **escape punishment**.*

*Not **Guilty**, was the **verdict** and
These **words I have enlarged**
To **show the jury's outrage that**
The **men** were **even charged**.*

*Yes, to **show its "Christian" outrage that**
These **men** were **even charged**.*

