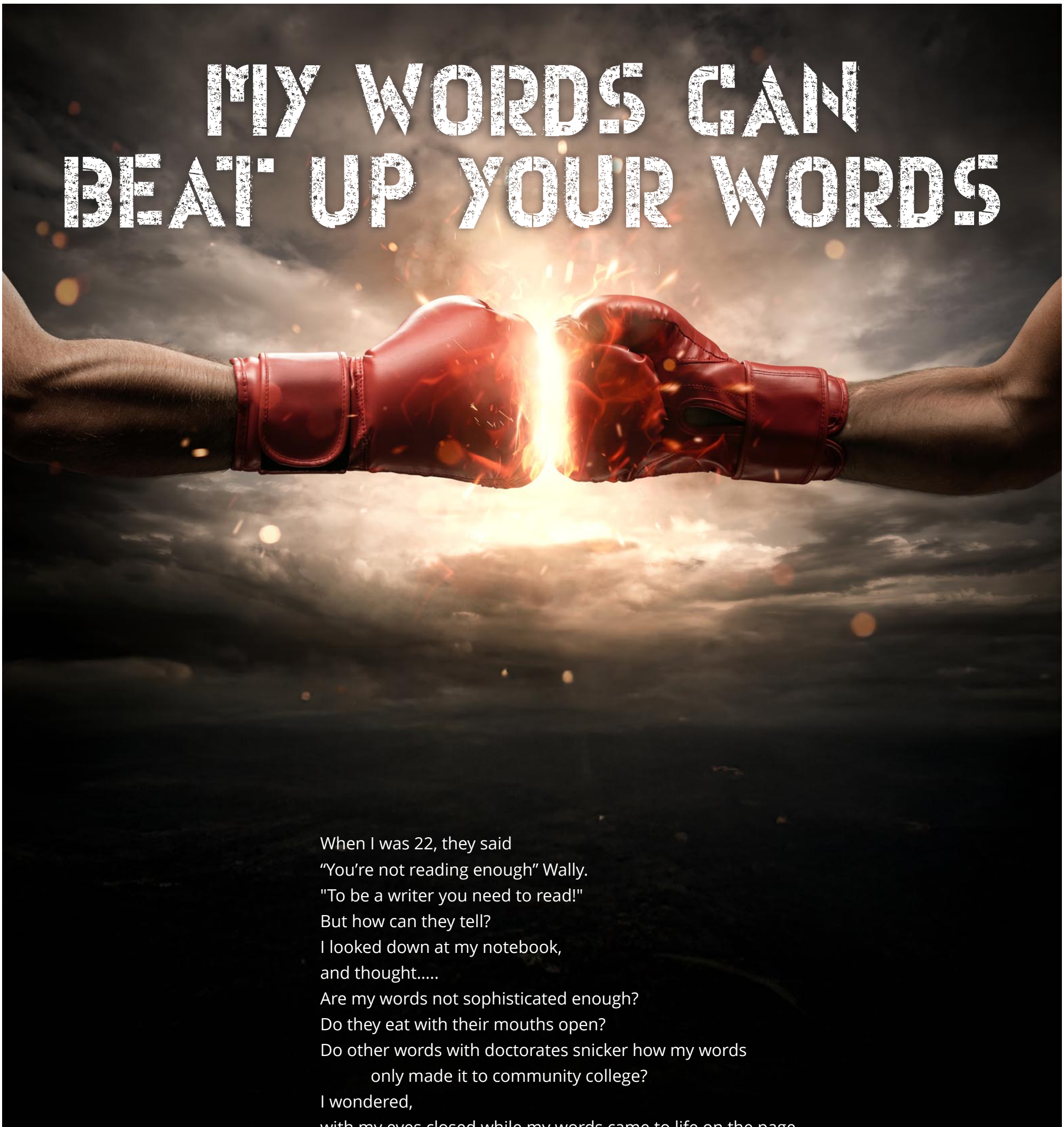
MY WORDS CAN BEAT UP YOUR WORDS



When I was 22, they said
“You’re not reading enough” Wally.
"To be a writer you need to read!"
But how can they tell?
I looked down at my notebook,
and thought.....
Are my words not sophisticated enough?
Do they eat with their mouths open?
Do other words with doctorates snicker how my words
only made it to community college?
I wondered,
with my eyes closed while my words came to life on the page.
Their backwards baseball caps matched their dirty sneakers.
Next, I looked on the corner of the page and found some dancing.
Others were crowded around watching a fight by the bar stools.
I opened my eyes again,
and they stopped.
Looked normal.
That is until I flipped over
the page, and found two others making
out behind the bleachers.

Cobalt Poets Series # 677 ~ September 30, 2025

WALKER VALDEZ

Walker (Walpoet) Valdez is a Bolivian American spoken word poet, educator, and teaching artist from Falls Church VA. He is a storyteller who blends humor and wordplay to speak on the Latin American experience. He holds a B.A. in English (Performance Media Concentration) from Marymount University and a M.Ed. in Special Education from George Mason University. He has performed in various venues throughout the DC area, including the Studio Theatre, Gala Hispanic Theatre, and the Rayburn House Office Building. He is a published poet with three of his poems recently appearing in the “Mid-Atlantic Review” and was also featured in the Zona San Antos Podcast based in San Antonio, Texas, and the Ms. Kir. Podcast based in New Jersey. Additionally, Mr. Valdez currently hosts a monthly open mic called “Coffee House Poetry” located at Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown DC and is a teaching/performing artist for the Heard Non Profit Arts Org.