

A brown horse with a white blaze on its face and white markings on its lower legs stands in a grassy field. The background shows a line of trees with some autumn-colored foliage under a clear blue sky.

The Joy of the Yoke

**Mighty percheron
led from the stall
harnessed with leather and steel
placed at the head of the plow**

**Snap of the whip
and shout of encouragement
leather creaks
and metal jingles**

**Hooves pounding
alongside brothers
dust billowing
manes tossing**

**Up the field
and back again
as sun wheels by
as ever it has**

**Night comes
and work ends
farmer sleeps
and tools rest**

**In darkened barn
equine breathing
I wonder if they dream
of the yoke.**