

## TERMINUS

Hourglass empty;  
Measured cord cut;  
Opportunities passed;  
Possibilities exhausted;  
Game over. . . .

End of discussion:  
No more opinions;  
All choices chosen;  
Personal history frozen:  
The last period  
Forever terminating  
The last sentence  
In each autobiography  
(Once partly private,  
Hereafter an open book).

End of the trail,  
Concluding all steps  
Down all forks in the road  
To finish the journey;  
Point of no return;  
The ticket's last stop;  
End of the line  
At the final destination,  
Where earthly life stops  
And afterlife begins.

Whether delight,  
In reward and rejoicing,  
Or disaster,  
In retribution and regret:  
Gate shut. . . .

— *David L. Hatton, 8/28/2015*