Creative Writing

Day 11
September 24th

• Daily Description: Describe being hungry.

• Agenda:
  – Daily Description
  – Poetry I Love
  – Poetry Café
  – Ekphrastic Poems
Today’s Objectives

• I will be able to read my own poem outloud with confidence and expression.

• I will know the characteristics of ekphrastic poetry.

• I will be able to write my own ekphrastic poem.
Poetry I Love
Ekphrastic Poetry

• Writing about or in response to art.

• Attempts to capture the spirit of the artwork, not necessarily to describe it.
According to Brueghel
when Icarus fell
it was spring

a farmer was ploughing
his field
the whole pageantry

of the year was
awake tingling
near

the edge of the sea
concerned
with itself

sweating in the sun
that melted
the wings' wax

unsignificantly
off the coast
there was

a splash quite unnoticed
this was
Icarus drowning
Bowed by the weight of centuries he leans
Upon his hoe and gazes on the ground,
The emptiness of ages in his face,
And on his back the burden of the world.

... 
Who loosened and let down this brutal jaw?
Whose was the hand that slanted back this brow?
Whose breath blew out the light within this brain?

Jean --François Millet’s painting
Man with a Hoe

American poet Edwin Markham
A power-house
in the shape of
a red brick chair
90 feet high
on the seat of which
sit the figures
of two metal
stacks--aluminum--

classic scene
William Carlos Williams

commanding an area
of squalid shacks
side by side--
from one of which
buff smoke
streams while under
a grey sky
the other remains
passive today--
List the first words that come to mind when you look at this artwork.
What is happening in this artwork?
What story is being told?
Who or what is the subject of the painting?
How would you describe them?
What is the mood of the artwork?
What sounds, smells, feelings, tastes could you associate with it?
How does this artwork connect with you personally?
Why did you choose it?
Now that you have closely observed the artwork, how would you summarize its main idea?
Writing About Art

• You will have one minute to walk around the room and peruse the different art works. At the end of one minute you must have chosen a work.

• You will have five minutes to write about the artwork you have chosen.
  – Describe it.
  – Write metaphors or similes to describe the emotions it evokes in you.
  – Imagine the story of the painting.
Writing an Ekphrastic Poem

• Choose one piece of art and write a poem in response to it.
• Be concrete in your descriptions and details.
• Remember that your poem should capture the essence of the artwork, not simply describe it.
• 14-20 lines long