Poetry Study

Day 36
November 30th

• Daily Description: Write a description of your room. Try to use many different sensory details (sight, smell, sound, etc.)

• Agenda:
  – Daily Description
  – Letter Poems
  – Getting Ideas
  – Brainstorming
  – “I Am From” poems
Today’s Objectives

- I will know poetic devices I can use to write my own poems.
- I will be able to write my own Letter and “I Am From” poems.
Letter Poems

• A letter poem is a letter to someone or something.
• It is written using poetic devices like rhythm, rhyme, imagery, and figurative language.
• Why write letter poems?
  – Closure – you get to say all you want to say without being interrupted.
  – Explore your feelings
  – Write for the sake of writing the letter – not for the letter to be read.
• https://www.powerpoetry.org/poems/worrisome-little-girl-i-was

• https://soundcloud.com/louder-than-a-bomb/letter-to-my-unborn-daughter?scrlybrkr=8a7d142b
Where to Start?

• You can choose to write to an emotion – like your fear or anxiety or sadness.
• Write to an object
• To a system like the government or church
• Address your letter to a political figure or a form of injustice
• Write to people from your past
• Write to people in your future
• Write a letter to your future child
• Write a letter giving advice to your past self
• Write a letter to your government
• Write a letter to an inanimate object or abstract concept
• Write a letter to your favorite food
• Write a letter to the president
• Write a letter to someone you haven't forgiven
• Write a letter to your biggest fear
• Write a letter to yourself in the voice of someone else
• Write a letter about global warming/write a letter to the earth
• Write an apology about something you haven't forgiven yourself for
Poetry Out Loud

• Burke can take up to four students to the regional workshop.
  – 2/16/19 2-3:30 at Joslyn Art Museum (I think)
  – Recite 2 poems from the POL anthology.
  – Get feedback and tips from performance poets.

• Burke will hold a school wide POL contest the week of February 18th

• One student from Burke can compete at the POL State Finals
  – 3/10/19 1:30-4:00 at Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln

• National Finals are April 30-May 1 in Washington DC
Where I’m From Poems
http://www.georgeellalyon.com/where.html

• http://www.georgeellalyon.com/audio/where.mp3
PLACES:

- House (outside) shape, color, materials
- Yard, patio, garden, deck
- Neighborhood
- Streets

FAMILY

- Names of relatives/where they came from
- Physical appearances or resemblances
- Family “sayings”
- Traditions and get-togethers
- Brothers or sisters
- Food or dishes at family gatherings
- Routines
- Chores
- Rules
- Music heard while growing up
- Pets
- Family games
- Hobbies
- Items from childhood
- Room décor
- Regular family vacations
- Talents you’ve inherited
Brainstorming

• Places:
  – Small Nebraska town
  – Neighborhood with lots of kids
  – Planting trees in the yard
  – Playing 4 square in the street
  – Park/lake nearby
  – Climbing trees
  – Road trips to small towns to see family

• Family:
  – Shared room with two sisters
  – Brother is youngest
  – Lived with 1 sister in college
  – Dad played guitar and sang at night
  – Mom stayed at home until I was in high school
  – Dad ran and Mom walked
Adding Active Verbs

• Read through the list you just completed.
• Try adding active verbs to your descriptions.

• Ex: Playing 4 Square → Games of 4 Square ricocheting off the houses.

• Dad playing guitar and singing → an accidental lullaby drifts up the stairs
Using Descriptions

• Use the descriptions you wrote last time and today and write an “I Am From” poem and a poem of location.
I Am From

I am from soft grass and new poplar trees outgrowing me
From six kittens born on my seventh birthday.
I am from a bedroom crowded with homemade dolls
and morning squabbles at the bathroom door.

I am from solace found in treetops
From adventure found in the pages of books.
I am from ducks converging on leftover movie theater popcorn
From miles of blacktop seen from the backseat of a blue station wagon.

I am from lullabies of “Light My Fire” floating up
from where my father plays and sings in the kitchen.
I am from miles of pavement pounded by work-weary feet
and from the warmth of fresh baked cookies on the table after school.
My Grandfather’s Land

His heartbeat
Is in the land
Pulsing against my fingers
Set free
In the air around me.

His laughter
Is on the wind
Caressing my cheek
With a careless
Touch

And then gone
To paint new images
Of tired eyes
And work-worn hands
In the trembling hearts
Of other legacies.
Mark descriptions you really like. These words or phrases may contain strong imagery, vivid word choice, or other figurative language.

Ask questions (to the side of the poem) if you are curious about any content or aspect of the poem.
Poems

• Location Poem
• Letter Poem
• Where I’m From Poem