Creative Writing 1

Day 6
September 6th

• Daily Description: Describe getting ready for an important event.

• Agenda:
  – Daily Description
  – Poetry I Love
  – Lines and Stanzas
Today’s Objectives

- I will begin collecting lines and stanzas in my notebook.

- I will be able to write a poem using lines and stanzas I’ve collected.
Poetry I Love
Stanzas

• Couplet – 2 lines
• Tercet – 3 lines
• Quatrain – 4 lines
Sketching Techniques

• Collecting images and descriptions and lines in your notebook.

• 1 line at a time
• In couplets
• Tercets
• Quatrains
1 Line

• “In this world we walk on the roof of hell, gazing at flowers.”
  - Isa (Japanese poet)

“The boy walked out into the field to see his white horse.”
  - D. H. Lawrence
1 Line

• Write one line thoughts.
• Be as descriptive as you can.
• Focus on the idea.
“I hate and love, you may ask me why –
I don’t know but I feel it and I suffer.”

- Catullus (Roman poet)

“Soft is the massacre of suns
By evening’s Sabres slain Her image”

Emily Dickinson
2 Lines

• Focus on relationship
  – Question and answer
  – Call and response

• Think about rhythm

• Try for a surprising (but connected) second line
  “The elephant was killed by a small arrow.”
  “The lake dries up at the edges.”
  – Not “salt – pepper” but “salt – wound”
• Phone ringing in an empty room.

• I’m asleep on skis.

• The rain fell all afternoon.
Three Lines

Suma village
Early morning
A urine stained quilt on the line
   – Buson
Three Lines

- Weaving
- Lines dancing
Think of a haiku as a little moment that tip-toes up to find you. A moment you capture exactly as you experience it, so the person reading your 3 lines feels the moment too, the same as you. The subject of haiku often contain small, unimportant things that most people rush past and completely miss. Paw prints in the dirt. A broken spider web. The way sunlight lands on your cat’s belly or your dad’s head. [...] There’s usually a little ahhh feeling that happens inside of you when you find or read a good haiku. It can feel like a calm flutter. Or an excited little leap.
Haiku

• A poem recording the essence of a moment in which nature and human existence are linked
• Haiku poets write about common, everyday experiences involving natural objects
• Format: 3 lines, 5/7/5 syllables
Haiku Examples

The last winter leaves
Clinging to the black branches
Explode into birds.

Still cobalt ocean
Blackbacked gulls flitting on by
Menacing trawler

Morning sun awakes
River winding through my yard
Fragrance of the moon.
Haiku Hints

• Write what’s happening in the moment.
• Look for small details.
• Don’t explain – let your images do the talking.
• Try speaking to – not about – your subject.
• Let what’s surprising or funny come last.
Haiku Battle

• [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7-2_gUuWK4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7-2_gUuWK4)
Four Lines

Yesterday we climbed stony mountain
The rocks on the trail were the color of trout
We talked about our lives and loneliness
On top, in the fog, we couldn’t see a thing.

- Do Fu (Chinese poet)
Four Lines

• Quatrain – a four line poem
• Solid – like a table top
• Three lines describing, one line a revelation
  – Can be a peaceful revelation or a disturbing one
• Can play with rhyme (or not)
Quatrains
by Gwendolyn Bennett

1.
Brushes and paints are all I have
To speak the music in my soul-
While silently there laughs at me
A copper jar beside a pale green bowl.

2.
How strange that grass should sing –
Grass is so still a thing...
And strange the swift surprise of snow
So soft it falls and slow.
Line Game

• Choose three lines that you have written.
• Write one line on each slip of papery.
• Mingle!
• Pair up and come up with an interesting way to combine your line cards with your partners'.
4 Lines

• Write a 4 line poem that sums up your view of the world
Writing a Poem

• Look at the lines you’ve written today.

• Choose a few lines to work with to create a poem (or several poems).

• Focus on concrete details and interesting phrasing.