
MLK Poetry Workshop!

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Overview

What to Expect!

We'll look at poetic language and how it'll improve your writing! We'll also discuss what the judges in this contest will be looking for.

Checklist

- Creativity and Sensory Language
- Advantages of Repetition
- The Use of Duality

Putting it together!

You'll have time writing out and using these techniques for yourself in this workshop!

Creativity and Sensory Language

- Topic area 1

What is Sensory Language?

- The use of words that create a strong connection to any of the 5 senses.
- These words can also invoke an image within our mind or remind us of something familiar within our brain.

How can it help us be creative?

- Sensory language allows us to say what we want to say in a more descriptive and imaginative way. These words paint a picture that's outside of the ordinary.
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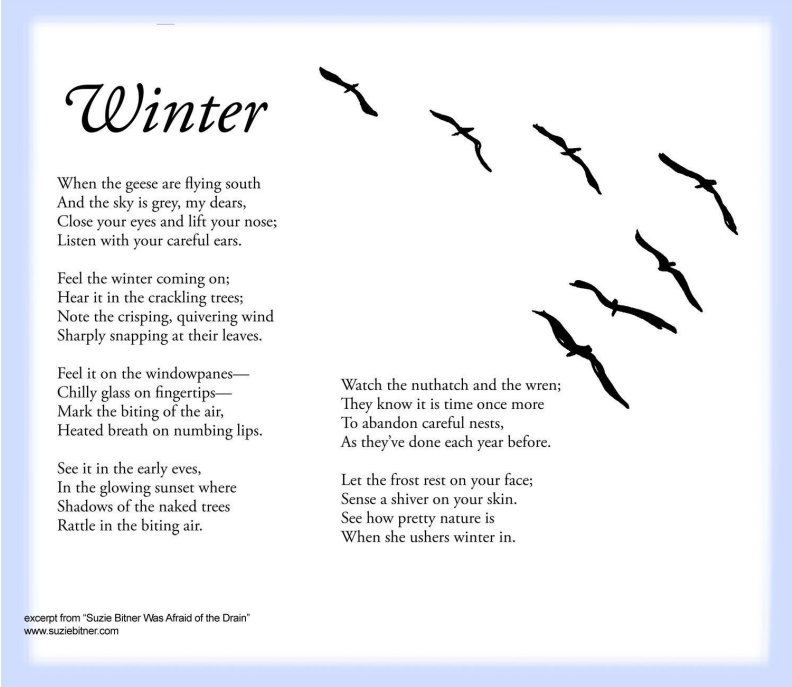
Examples of Sensory Language

- Sensory Words for **Sight**: *dazzling, gloomy, bright, foggy, gigantic*
 - Indicate Colors, Shapes, and Appearances
 - Sensory Words for **Touch**: *gritty, creepy, slimy, fluff, sticky*
 - Describes Feelings and Abstract Concepts
 - Sensory Words for **Taste/Smell**: *zesty, tantalizing, sweet, stinky, stale*
 - Substitutes for bland words like *good, nice, or bad*
 - Sensory Words for **Hearing**: *crashing, thumping, piercing, tingling, squeaky*
 - Often these words mimic sounds; they're called onomatopoeic
 - Sensory Words for **Motion**: *vibrating, soaring, mind-boggling*
 - Are often active words or describing movement
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Examples of Sensory Language

Part 2

Where do we see
sensory language at play
in the poem?



Winter

When the geese are flying south
And the sky is grey, my dears,
Close your eyes and lift your nose;
Listen with your careful ears.

Feel the winter coming on;
Hear it in the crackling trees;
Note the crisping, quivering wind
Sharply snapping at their leaves.

Feel it on the windowpanes—
Chilly glass on fingertips—
Mark the biting of the air,
Heated breath on numbing lips.

See it in the early eves,
In the glowing sunset where
Shadows of the naked trees
Rattle in the biting air.

Watch the nuthatch and the wren;
They know it is time once more
To abandon careful nests,
As they've done each year before.

Let the frost rest on your face;
Sense a shiver on your skin.
See how pretty nature is
When she ushers winter in.

excerpt from "Suzie Bitner Was Afraid of the Drain"
www.suziebitner.com

Advantages of Repetition

- Topic area 2

What is Repetition?

- Repetition helps to bring about a certain focus in our writing.
- Can also help bring a certain emphasis or sound to certain phrases or key themes of a poem.



How can it help us be creative?

- It will help the audience and reader better focus on the message you want them to hone in on. Think of it as the “hook” or “catchy part” of a song. It attracts the reader.

Examples of Repetition



Mood - Poem

Poem

I loved my friend.
He went away from me.
There's nothing more to say.
The poem ends,
Soft as it began –
I loved my friend:

By Langston Hughes

Nobody
No, nobody
Can make it out here alone.
Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.

STILL I RISE

by Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may tread me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame

I rise
Up from a past that's rooted in pain
I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and
fear

I rise
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear

I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors
gave,

I am the dream and the hope of the
slave.

I rise

I rise

I rise.

The Use of Duality

- Topic area 3

What is Duality?

- A poetic language used to show the contrast of two elements, concepts, themes.
- They are usually opposites of each other.

How can using duality be helpful?

- It can help portray a certain level of drama or interest in two concepts. It also helps to bring about different perspectives or imagery within the writing of a poem.
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Examples of Duality

Where do we see duality
at play in the poem?

Duality

A short spell of rain
with a silvery hope,
a wavy peep
through the closed door,
and the quantum chemistry
between you and me
made the star studded sky
so dreamy on that day-

Now

on a deserted day,
i sit by the window
see the smokes
from the burning incense sticks,
spirally vanishing
into the hole of disbelief...

Chandan Dey

Putting it all together!

Try making a short 6 word poem with sensory language!

Choose a sense to start writing out your short poem.

Try making a short 4 line poem with repetition!

Think about something catchy you'd say to start repeating in the poem!

Try making a short 2 line poem with duality

Think of opposing concepts that you can put together.
