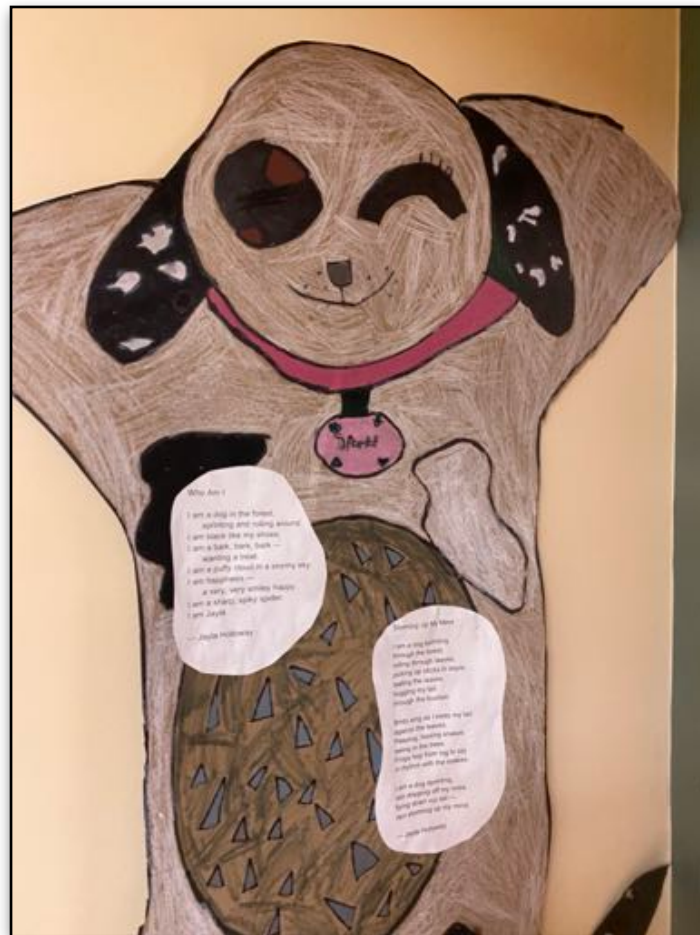


# Who Am I & Other Poems

written by the 5th Grade Students  
at Harding Elementary School  
Erie, Pennsylvania



Art by Jayla Holloway

in Memory of  
Sister Mary Lou Kownacki, OSB  
1941-2023

*Who Am I & Other Poems* is a more than a collection of writings by fifth graders; it is the students' immersion into metaphor, into becoming something completely different from who they are, yet at the same time, something very similar, whether it be an "echo *roar-roaring* in excitement," a "river flowing like a song," a "volcano ready to erupt," or a "leaf wandering from tree to tree." *Who Am I* is a celebration of all the students' imaginings, their looking at the world from a variety of perspectives, their playing with language, experimenting with poetic forms, and rewriting drafts until they were satisfied with how the whole work "sounded." It is the culmination of an arts residency that began in early October of 2022 and ended with the students giving a public recitation of their work right before the holidays.

— Mary Arete Moodey  
Teaching Artist for Erie Arts & Culture

## Contributors

Shawn Abbasi  
Avery Acevedo  
Bentley Adair  
Safeya Aladinova  
Jehad Alhamawi  
Omar Alhamawi  
Jarrious Allen  
Alex Baez  
Lilly Barner  
Zaiah Bates  
Yaminah Bayete  
Roosevelt Benjamin  
Annabella Bolorin  
Ariyah Brown-House  
Blake Bruno  
Je'Carrion Carson  
Lira Cosme  
Angelo Crockett  
Bohdan Demchenko  
Beatrice Dolanc  
Uriah Ettison  
Jefdiehl Sanches Fuentes  
Niahli George-Rivera  
Aaliyah Green  
Jayawna Griffin  
Autumn Grimes  
Ty'Shaun Gunn, Jr.  
Haris Hamdard  
Za'Mauria Harris  
Patrick "Lars" Hayes  
Kayvon Hill

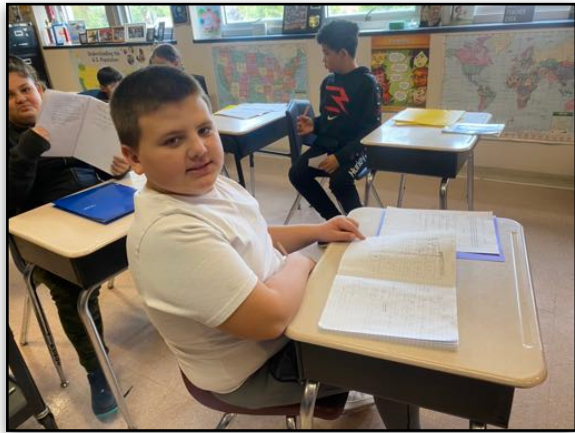
Jayla Holloway  
Malaya Hooks  
Demilliona Jenkins  
Nevaeh Johnson  
Ashton Jordan  
Aeden Kelly  
Davyd Khromov  
Vladyslav Khromov  
Devyn King  
Kamryn Knight  
Jonah Krastins  
Nicholas Krastins  
Kaleb Lang  
Amelia Lasky  
Nicholas Meneskie  
Fadila Nabhan  
Cameron Phillips  
D'mya Pitchford  
DeShawn Roberts  
Oshyn Robinson  
Jonathan Romero  
Zalayah Switzer  
Sanai Vega  
Mikayla Velez  
Nyree Waiters  
Aedyn Weech-Kosmatine  
Shannon Wiley  
Alexander Wisniewski  
Nasir Woodard  
Marcus Zapata

*A special thanks* to the 5th grade teachers at Harding Elementary School, Ms. Carrie Fitch, Mr. Phillip Millimacci, Ms. Stephanie Ott-Zurcher; to Harding's Principal, Ms. Kathleen Farnham, and Community School Director, Ms. Shanna Potter; to the Program Officer of Arts and Learning, Mr. Ethan Hayden, at Erie Arts & Culture; and to Erie Arts & Culture, Erie Insurance, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts for providing the funds that made this program possible.

Who Am I

I am an anteater.  
I am yellow and orange.  
I am thunder.  
I am a lake.  
I am anger.  
I am thunder.  
I am Shawn.

— Shawn Abbasi



Who Am I

I am a rainbow parrot  
squawking under the bright sun.  
I am the Grand Canyon leading a path,  
helping others find their way.  
I am joy.  
I am a shiny crystal in a dark cave.  
I am Walter,  
an ordinary name many people do not have.

— Avery Acevedo



Who Am I

I am a dog being wild.  
I am as brown as a bear.  
I am a bark.  
I am an ice floe, cold and white.  
I am as happy as a bunny.  
I am a dog wanting to be alone.  
I am Bentley.

— Bentley Adair

That Dog

That dog hates being wild  
hates having to hunt  
hates the wild cats  
hunting him.  
But, that dog  
loves turtles.

— Bentley Adair

Cinquain

Forest  
Swatting poisons  
Mud, poisonous creatures  
Imagine slipping and sliding —  
Swamp life

— Safeya Aladinova



Who Am I

I am a polar bear standing on ice.  
I am baby blue.  
I am an echo *roar-roaring* in excitement.  
I am an earthquake scaring people.  
I am excitement scaring people.  
I am a frozen lake.  
I am lavender —  
I want to be Lavender  
because it's a calming name.

— Safeya Aladinova



Culture and Gardens  
(a Renga)

The water splashes  
in the rivers and forests  
reviving the land —

Mountains overlooking all.  
Volcanos burning fires.

Aztecs build bridges  
over growing marshes -  
a culture flourishes

People coming together —  
planting gardens, growing trees.

— Safeya Aladinova, Zaiyah Bates,  
and Za'Mauria Harris



Who Am I

I am a tornado.  
I am grey.  
I am flying stuff.  
I am the wind.  
I am hard.  
I am a storm with thunder.  
I am Omar.

— Omar Alhamawi



Lightening Shatters  
(a Renga)

Trade routes followed seas  
and roads across the regions  
connecting people

Lightening shatters the bridges —  
people in need of shelter.

War in Syria  
I had to leave my city  
and find a new home

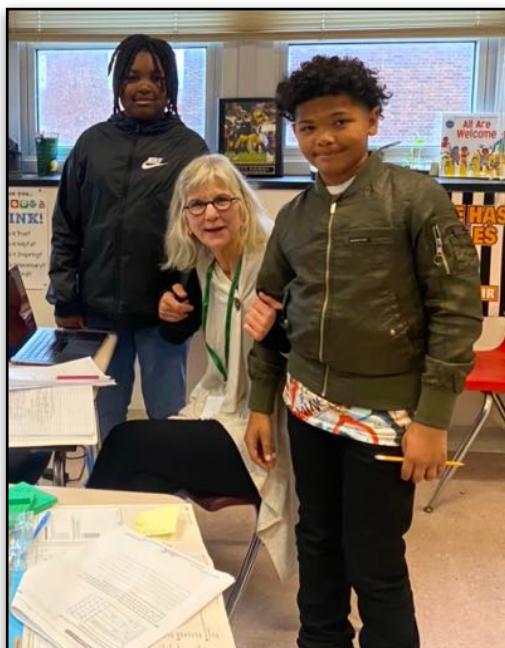
in Erie, Pennsylvania  
where I have made some new friends.

— Omar Alhamawi, Kaleb Lang,  
and Devyn King, Aedyn Weech,

Who Am I

I am a monkey swinging from branch to branch.  
I am green, as green as spring grass.  
I am a guitar making people calm.  
I am the sun making people joyful.  
I am happiness shining the rainbow.  
I am a lake being calm and steady.  
I am Jarrious.

— Jarrious Allen



## Who Am I

I am a horse.  
I am brown.  
I am a flute.  
I am land.  
I am happy and excited. Joy.  
I am grass.  
I am the sky.

— Alex Baez



## Renga

Sunset basketball:  
the ball bounces down the court  
like the setting sun.

The sun is on fire falling down,  
smoothing down on the still bay.

— Alex Baez, Jonathan Romero

## Cinquain

Water  
Producing steam  
People getting warmer  
Saunas producing heat.  
Relax

— Lillv Barner



## Cinquain

Sunset —  
pink, orange, and red.  
The sky is on fire  
burning flames in the calm water —  
Lava

## Haiku

Sunset — pink, orange, red  
burning flames into the sky.  
The earth's on fire.

— Alex Baez



## Who Am I

I.

I am a fox.  
I am as pink as blush.  
I am lightning striking.  
I am a blue sky.  
I am happy and joyful.  
I am a deer galloping in nature.  
I am Lilly Barner.

II.

I am in love with a fox.  
I go pink as blush  
    like when you see your crush.  
I go blue every time  
    I see a fox.  
I am so happy  
    to see him every day.  
The sky turns black  
    and lightning strikes.  
I run like a deer galloping through nature.

— Lilly Barner



## Summer Market Days (a Renga)

Bustling people —  
babies crying as loud as cats:  
summer market days.

Markets growling like tigers  
stalking their very scared prey.

Prey running up trees  
hiding behind the palm leaves  
feeling some relief.

Tigers' stomachs grumbling  
sounding like timpani drums.

— Lilly Barner, Ariyah Brown-House,  
Jayawna Griffin, and Nevaeh Johnson



## Who Am I

I am an owl sitting on a tree staring.  
I am grey.  
I am a *whoo*. . . *whoo* . . . *whoo* . . .  
I am lightning striking.  
I am nervousness.  
I am a tree waving back and forth.  
I am the night.

— Zaiah Bates



Who Am I

I am a lion.  
I am blond with orange eyes.  
I am a roar.  
I am South Africa with dry land.  
I am anger; I'm not a very nice animal.  
I am the jungle full of animals.  
I am Yaminah Bayete.

— Yaminah Bayete

Cinquain

Water  
Wrinkles the skin  
Soaking hours on end  
The sun darkens my charcoal skin  
Summer

— Yaminah Bayete

Nature's Dance  
(a Renga)

Water wrinkling skin  
soaking for hours on end.  
The sun darkens me.

My body arches rainbows;  
my hair swings around glinting.

Trees dance with the wind;  
the sun, a spotlight, follows —  
sun and wind dancing.

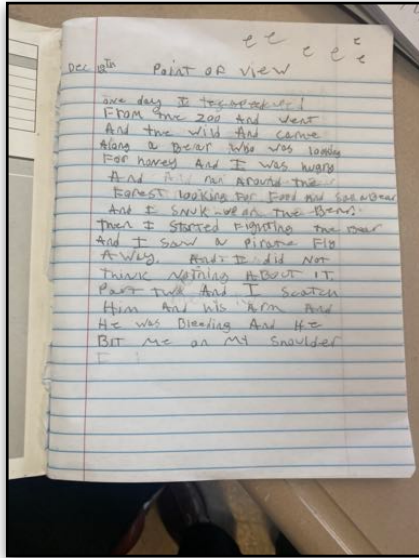
Flowers blooming in rhythm,  
rain washes petals away.

— Yaminah Bayete, Sanai Vega,  
and Nyree Waiters

Who Am I

I am a bear climbing a tree.  
I am pink, blue, and black.  
I am a roar shouting for honey.  
I am a big blue sky.  
I am a happy bear.  
I am a big blue tree shivering from cold.  
I am Roosevelt.

— Roosevelt Benjamin



Point-of-View

Fight of the Jungle  
(a Renga)

Along came a bear  
looking for golden honey  
in the wet jungle.

A tiger stalks the jungle  
hungry for his dinner.

Perched in a palm tree  
a parrot sees the fight start.  
He calls to others

warning them to stay hidden.  
Fog fills the jungle air.

The hungry tiger  
pounces on the bear, scratching him  
But the bear fights back

The parrots squawks from above  
until the two surrender.

— Avery Acevedo, Roosevelt Benjamin,  
and Je'Carrion Carson





Who Am I

I am a cat playing with a string.  
I am a pink crayon.  
I am a *meow*.  
I am a rock in a pond.  
I am happiness.  
I am a green-red-orange leaf being rained on.  
I am Annabella.

— Annabella Bolorin



Who Am I

I am a lion strolling through the Sahara.  
I am tan like a picnic basket.  
I am the roar of a loud lion.  
I am a lightning bolt striking the city.  
I am calm and settled.  
I am a leaf falling into the pile of leaves.  
I am Noil, lion backwards.

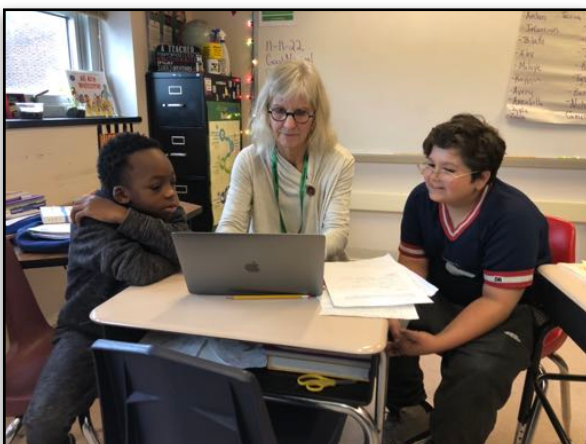
— Ariyah Brown-House



Who Am I

I.  
I am a cat *meowing*.  
I am dark pink.  
I am a clarinet sounding *meow*.  
I am a cloud filling up with water.  
I am anger exploding.  
I am a creek flowing downstream.  
I am a cat named Blake!

II.  
I am a deer  
My antlers are very sharp,  
as sharp as a knife.  
I am very fast like a cheetah.  
I am very soft.  
I taste very good.



III.  
I am a buck.  
I am very big, as big as a building.  
My antlers are very, very big —  
as big as a rose window.  
I am very, very tall like a tree.  
I am a drum booming through the forest.  
I am anger exploding.  
I am a tree.  
I am Blake, the mean buck.

IV.  
I am a mean cheetah  
feasting on a deer with my cubs.  
I am yellow with black dots.  
I am a mean *roar* stirring up winds.  
I am a desert making burrows.  
I am anger turning the sky red.  
I am water splashing animals and people,  
and the people get mad and turn red.  
I am the mean Blake.

— Blake Bruno

Who Am I

I am a tiger chasing a deer.  
I am as white as snow.  
I am a deafening roar.  
I am raging thunder.  
I am happiness inside.  
I am a forest, a big forest.  
I am Je'Carrion,  
the smartest kid alive!

— Je'Carrion Carson



Who Am I

I am a rat searching quietly for food.  
I am sage green like the pale leaves changing.  
I am a squeak calling for my family and friends.  
I am a mountain shadowing the lands.  
I am crazy like myself.  
I am a grapevine growing healthy grapes.  
I am Liara living my best life.

— Liara Cosme



### Colored Skies (a Renga)

Rainbows, snow blankets  
every shape different —  
the sun sets slowly.

Clouds running across the sky.  
They're predators chasing prey.

Snow falls down and down . . .  
rainbows beam in the blue sky,  
birds soar through the sky.

The moon rises suddenly —  
land, quiet as the night stars.

— Liara Cosme and Beatrice Dolanc





Who Am I

I am an elephant.  
I am purple.  
I am sarcastic.  
I am grass.  
I am joyful.  
I am a tree.  
I am Uriah.

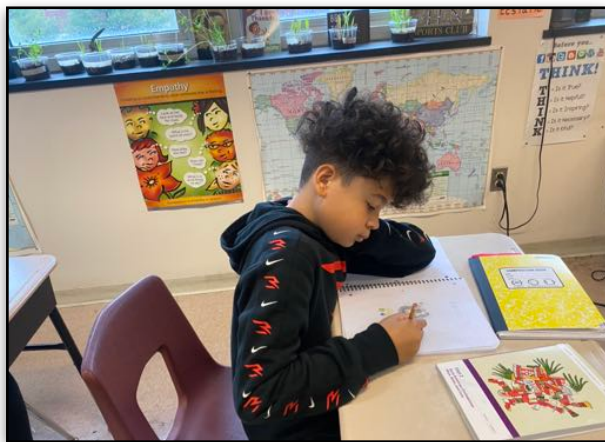
— Uriah Ettison



Who Am I

I am a lion.  
My roar shakes the jungle.  
I am yellow,  
as yellow as the sun.  
I am a violin playing a tune.  
I am a river flowing like a song.  
I am happiness jumping like a bunny.  
I am a little sapling getting ready to grow.  
I am Jefdiel.

— Jefdiel Sanchez Fuentes



Who Am I

I am parrot flying in a forest.  
I am purple, the color of my crown.  
I am a scream of fun.  
I am a tropical forest with leaves flying over me.  
I am joy when I'm with my friends.  
I am a flower blooming in your eyes.  
I am Niahli dreaming of flying  
in a colorful forest  
screaming with all my friends  
by the purple blooming flowers.

— Niahli George-Rivera



Blooming Purple

I am Niahli  
dreaming I can fly  
in a colorful forest  
with flowers blooming purple.

— Niahli George-Rivera



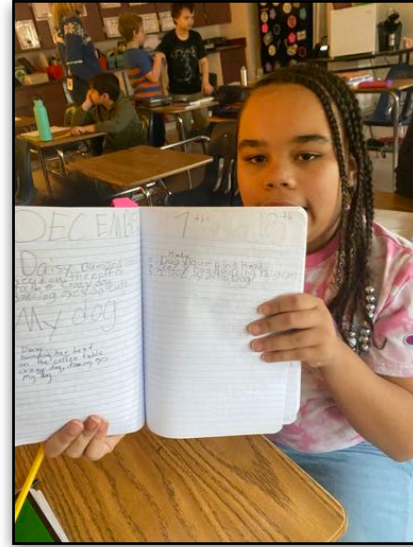
Daisy  
(a Cinquain)

Daisy  
Bumping her head  
On the coffee table —  
Crazy dog running, dancing eyes  
My dog.

Haiku

Daisy bumps her head —  
crazy dog dancing, big eyes.  
I love my dog.

— Aaliyah Green



Who Am I

I am a lion, strong as steel.  
I am blue, as blue as water can be.  
I am the sloshing of water.  
I am the jungle catching the animals.  
I am joy, happy and excited.  
I am food.  
I am Aaliyah, as funny as can be!

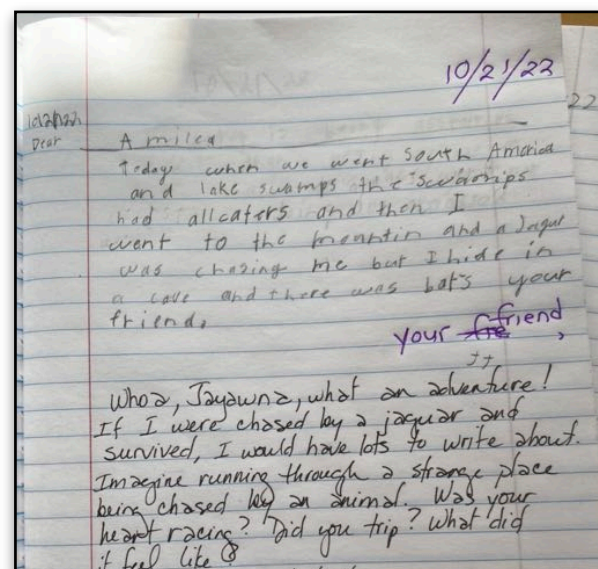
— Aaliyah Green



Who Am I

I am a lion roaring at prey.  
I am blue, as blue as the ocean.  
I am a roar scaring the prey.  
I am thunder banging like drums.  
I am joy, happiness to my parents.  
I am a tree, still and calm.  
I am Jayawna.

— Jayawna Griffin



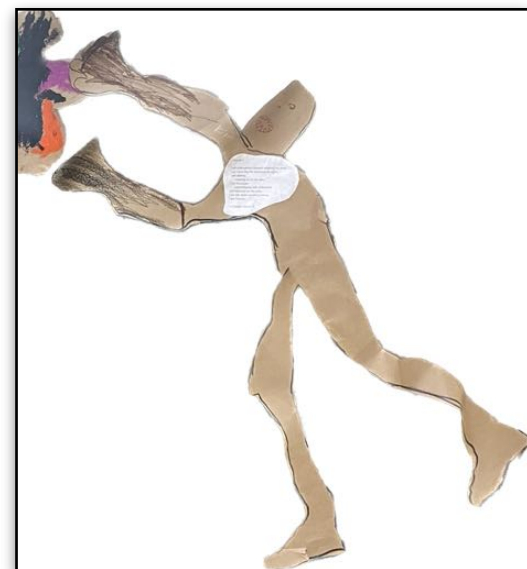




Who Am I

I am a fish, a black fish  
 swimming in the water.  
 I am black,  
 black as the starry night.  
 I am water.  
*Shhhh.* I am calm water.  
 I am an ocean stirring waves,  
 waves foaming onto shore.  
 I am sadness and calm  
 looking out a window on a rainy day.  
 I am rain dripping  
 on a leaf in the rainforest.  
 I am Autumn.  
 I am the greatest Autumn I can be.  
 I am fun and goofy and funny.

— Autumn Grimes



Who Am I

I am a dangerous leopard stalking my prey.  
 I am black like the darkness at night.  
 I am silence,  
 creeping up to my prey.  
 I am the jungle  
 camouflaging with a leopard.  
 I am focused on my prey.  
 I am the earth rumbling below.  
 I am Ty'Shaun.

— Ty'Shaun Gunn, Jr.



Who Am I

I am a cheetah.  
 I am black.  
 I am a roar.  
 I am the jungle catching prey.  
 I am happiness.  
 I am Haris, kind and playful.

— Haris Hamdard



Who Am I

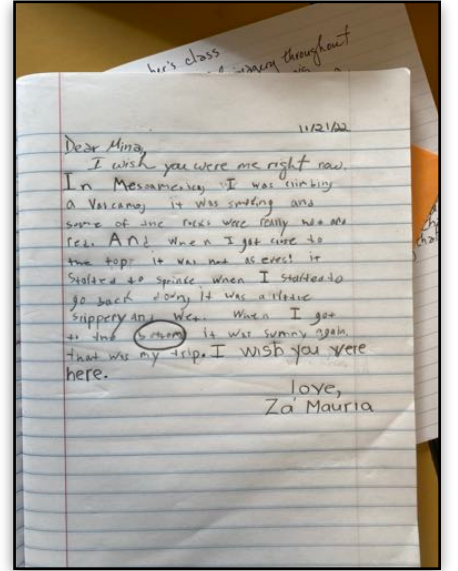
I.

I am a lion relaxing,  
 watching zebras eating grass.  
 I am snow white, very cold.  
 I am a cloud snowing on people.  
 I am chilling out, lying down.  
 I am snow, cold.  
 I am Za'Mauria, chilling  
 watching the zebras as they eat grass.

II.

I am a lion watching zebras eat grass.  
 I get thirsty watching the zebras.  
 I walk to some water.  
 When I return,  
 the zebras are galloping away  
 so I leave  
 and the sun is setting.  
 The sky is bright orange  
 and then darkens.  
 Once it's dark, I fall asleep.

— Za'Mauria Harris



Who Am I

I am a dog barking.  
 I am beige, as beige as Shiba Inn.  
 I am a bark calling my friend.  
 I am a sky house.  
 I am happiness playing around,  
 almost breaking a tee-pee.  
 I am a flash flood damaging  
 people's houses.  
 I am Patrick, but I want  
 to be called Lars.

— Patrick "Lars" Hayes



Lodo

As it snows  
 and the sky glows  
 like the sun  
 the wind blows the snow —  
 gleaming, snowy wind.

Lodo creeps out  
 from an underwater cave  
 when it snows  
 and the wind moves out of his way.

— Patrick "Lars" Hayes



Who Am I

I am a monkey.  
I am brown.  
I am a back cracking, silently hunting.  
I am on a tree blending in.  
I am anger.  
I am birds flying.  
I am Hezekiah.

— Hezekiah Hemphill



Who Am I

I am a vicious panther searching for food.  
I am black and white casting shadows.  
I am a mean and vicious roar  
                  shaking the leaves off the trees.  
I am the sky watching everyone.  
I am anger with my stomach growling.  
I am a volcano ready to erupt.  
I am Kayvon.

— Kayvon Hill



Who Am I

I am a dog in the forest,  
                  sprinting and rolling around.  
I am black like my shoes.  
I am a *bark, bark, bark*  
                  wanting a treat.  
I am a puffy cloud in a stormy sky.  
I am happiness —  
                  a very, very smiley happy.  
I am a sharp, spiky spider.  
I am Jayla.

— Jayla Holloway





Grass

Clear blue sky vanishes

Lightening strikes

Clouds covering a stormy sky

Loud lightening creaks

The rain roars  
like an angry lion  
raging across the green grass.

Lightening charges  
the wonderful green grass.

— Jayla Holloway



Tree

A tree —  
a very tall tree.  
Leaves fall down  
its beautiful branches.  
Its long roots spread  
across the grass  
and are consumed.  
The leaves sway  
with the powerful wind.  
Tree, you're lovely.

— Malaya Hooks

Who Am I

I am a brave and fast cheetah.  
I am black, as black as the starry sky.  
I am thunder — loud as a gun shot.  
I am a gigantic cloud, as big as a bear.  
I am betrayed, gloomy and shattered.  
I am a swaying tree in a quiet forest.  
I am Mighty Malaya.

—Malaya Hooks



Who Am I

I am a fish.  
I am yellow like a banana in a tree.  
I am a scream.  
I am a cloud making hail  
the size of golf balls.  
I am anger.  
I am a poisonous flower.  
I am fear, horrific.

— Demilliona Jenkins



Who Am I

I.

I am a baboon.  
I am brown and red.  
I am an *oohh! oohh! oohh!*  
I am lightning.  
I am afraid and shy.  
I am a tree.  
I am Heaven backwards.

II.

I am a baboon flashing my red butt!  
Yes, when you're a baboon  
your red butt is special.  
It is who you are.  
But did you know  
I love stealing bananas.

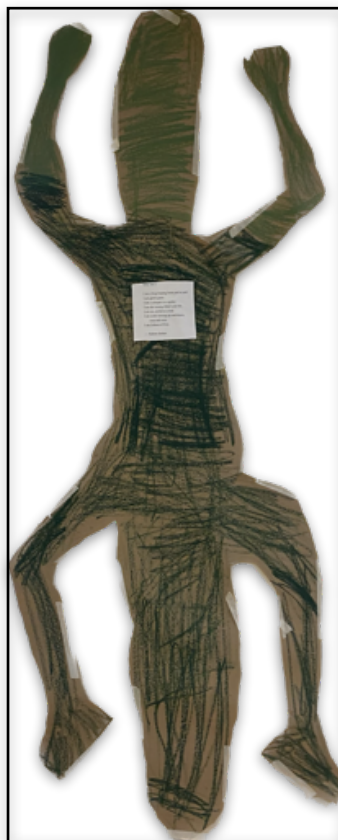
— Nevaeh Johnson



Who Am I

I am a frog leaping from pad to pad.  
I am green grass flowing in the wind.  
I am a whisper to a spider.  
I am the swamp filled with life.  
I am joy, joyful as a kid.  
I am water waving up and down,  
over and over.  
I am Ashton of Erie.

— Ashton Jordan



The Nerve

# 1

The nerve —  
We all have nerves;  
they are like worms crawling  
through an apple:  
what a strange pain!

# 2

The nerves are weird, crazy.  
Who knows how they work —  
like who?

— Ashton Jordan





Who Am I

I am a cat playing around.  
 I am black, as black as the void.  
 I am a high-pitched *meow* telling you to play .  
 I am a cloud puffed full with rain.  
 I am happiness playing with my friends.  
 I am an opossum, stealthy and shy.  
 I am Thelma — playing, meowing,  
 and running away.

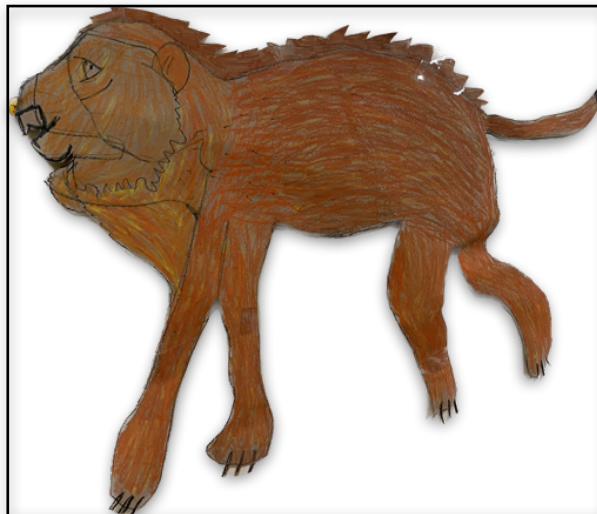
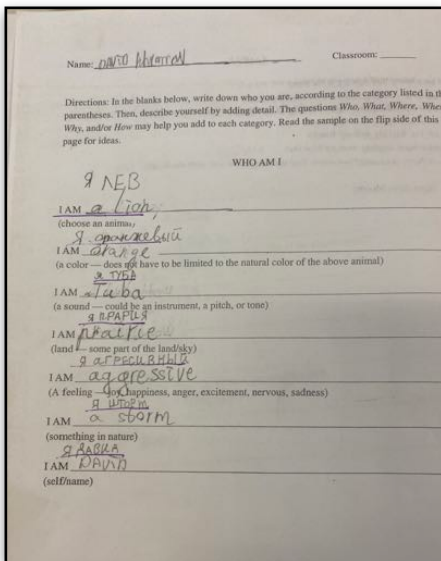
— Aedan Kelly



Who Am I

I am a lion.  
 I am orange.  
 I am a tuba.  
 I am a prairie.  
 I am aggression.  
 I am a storm.  
 I am Davyd.

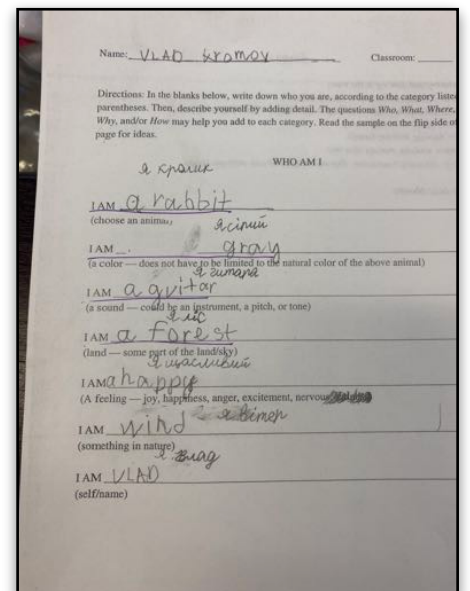
— Davyd Khromov



Who Am I

I am a rabbit.  
 I am gray.  
 I am a guitar.  
 I am a forest.  
 I am happiness.  
 I am the wind.  
 I am Vlad.

— Vladyslav Khromov





Who Am I

I am a panther  
I am as black as the night sky.  
I am screeching with joy.  
I am a yellow lightning bolt striking the town.  
I am happy because I jumped onto a cliff.  
I am a tree in the woods.  
I am Devyn James King.

— Devyn King



Who Am I

I am a cheetah.  
I am turquoise like the sea.  
I am a piano playing a song peacefully.  
I am a peaceful cloud floating above the turquoise sea.  
I am joy.  
I am a leaf wandering from tree to tree.  
I am Harlem.

— Kamryn Knight





Who Am I

I am a bat hiding from a lion.  
I am black,  
a cold dark deep black hole.  
I am a scream, afraid of a lion.  
I am a dark, cold deep cave  
ready to scare.  
I am sadness.  
I am a cloud hovering above everyone.  
I am Jonah 'cuz I am me.

— Jonah Krastins



The Apple Pie in the Broken Fridge  
(a Renga)

Fridge light not working —  
the fridge light is flickering.  
I can't see the food.

I want to eat apple pie.  
The apple pie is rotting.

I'll bake a new pie,  
gather the ingredients:  
apples, flour, eggs.

But the stove does not heat up —  
guess I'll have to buy a pie.

— Jonah Krastins, Shannon Wiley

Who Am I

I am a turtle in the wild, calm on land.  
I am red like a poppy flower  
in the summer.  
I am a trombone, loud inside the earth.  
I am the wind howling in the sky.  
I am happiness in the blue ocean.  
I am a pine tree standing in the sky,  
blowing in the wind.

— Nicholas Krastins



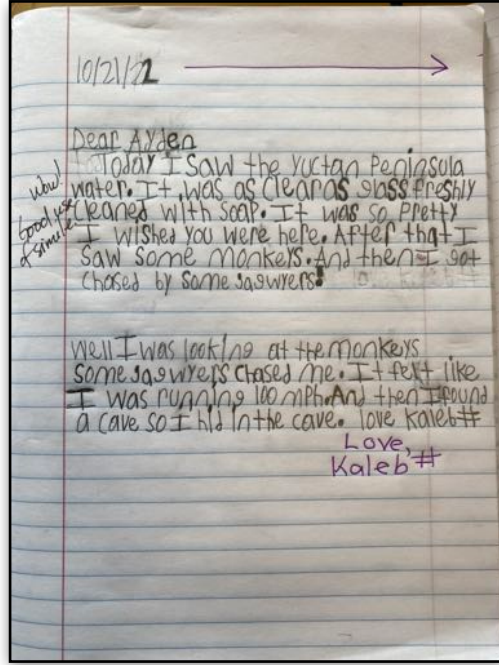
Who Am I

I am a soft cat like calming music.  
I am grey like a cat's fur.  
I am soft like calming music.  
I am a cloud on a sunny day  
covering a cat.  
I am nice like a cat.  
I am a tree with a cat on my branches.  
I am Kaleb.

— Kaleb Lang







### Who Am I

I am a cat sleeping like a log.  
 I am silver like my eyes in the sun.  
 I am trees moving in the wind.  
 I am the ground feeling a cat walking.  
 I am strong like my dad.  
 I am trees watching over me.  
 I am Amelia wishing to be a cat  
 sleeping on a log  
 under the silver sun  
 by trees moving in the wind.  
 I am Amelia wishing to be a cat  
 walking on the land  
 with trees over me.  
 I am Amelia and am very strong.

— Amelia Lasky



### Who Am I

I am a lion moving quietly  
 to catch prey.  
 I am gray like a rain cloud  
 storming plains.  
 I am a roar  
 yelling at hyenas.  
 I am Africa  
 moving powerfully.  
 I am joy embracing nature  
 feeling the wind on my nose.  
 I am the wind quietly moving  
 but moving with precision  
 and wisdom.  
 I am Nick.

— Nicholas Meneskie

### Snow Angel

I.  
 Angel —  
 A white blanket  
 Glistening snow outside  
 Lying down, swinging up my arms  
 Cold snow

II.  
 When I saw the white  
 blanket of snow,  
 I saw a snow angel  
 spreading out its wings  
 I thought of all the children  
 having fun.

— Amelia Lasky



Dear Cloud

I saw rain drop by drop,  
It filled the city streets.  
It leaked from the sad cloud,  
I watched the cloud cry.

Dear Cloud,  
why must you cry  
where you lie in the sky?  
And, on and on you still cry.

Rain's dropping on the bus.  
I hear some fuss —  
it's here, it's there,  
it's everywhere.

At the cloud, I glare  
and rub my hair  
as I am unaware  
of when your tears will stop.

Dear Cloud,  
why must you cry  
where you lie in the sky?  
And, on and on you still cry.

Dear Cloud,  
did someone hurt you?  
Maybe, I will cradle you to sleep.

— Nicholas Meniskie



Who Am I

I am a bunny.  
I am white like snow.  
I am a squeak.  
I am a fluffy cloud.  
I am full of joy and happiness.  
I am a tall tree giving shade to a bunny.  
I am Eli.

— Fadila Nabhan







Pitbull and the Prey

Pitball chases prey —  
Bunny runs away  
into the forest

Pitbull and the prey —  
Bunny and Pitbull run through rain  
Pitbull running, Bunny jumping.

Bunny scared, Pitbull not.  
Pitbull close, Bunny hops.

Bunny and the Pitbull —  
Pitbull nervous, Bunny joyful  
Bunny escapes to her burrow.

— Fidalia Nabhan, Mikalaya Velez

Who Am I

I.

I am a dog.  
My color is blue.  
My sound is dark.  
I am a cloud.  
I am safe.  
I am a leaf.

II.

I am a dog running from a cat.  
My name is Berry and I like blueberries,  
and I loveee the color blue,  
so much so much.  
When I see blue  
I try blue. I'm blue.  
And, finally, when I say  
I like blue blue  
I do not mean all blue,  
just black-blue,  
and that is all about me.

— D'mya Pitchford



Myth of the People

(inspired by *The Ancient American Civilizations* reader)

Sun on clay people:  
gooey figurines melting —  
puddles on the land.

The people's mouths turned to mush,  
their words as wet as water.

Wooden people,  
their bodies as hard as trees,  
without flesh and blood

wandered the the earth aimlessly

— D'mya Pitchford



That monkey likes ants.  
 My monkey loves to explore.  
 Their monkey wants food.  
 My monkey likes his turtle.

— Cameron Phillips

Who Am I

I am a furry chimpanzee,  
           tree-jumping through the jungle.  
 I am a brown chimpanzee that's as brown  
           as a tree branch.  
 I am a screaming chimpanzee  
           that's as loud as a speaker.  
 I am a monkey  
           jumping higher than the sky.  
 I am happy.  
       I found bananas in the jungle.  
 I am Zeike, the chimpanzee.

— DeShawn Roberts



The Cycle of Life  
 (a Renga)

The sacred precinct  
 filled with beautiful gardens —  
 a place for nobles

Colorful flowers flaming  
 like a sunset on the land.

Smells flow through the air  
 Flowers bloom while time passes —  
 flowers dropping seeds

Seeds growing into flowers —  
 Sun shines on the new gardens.

— DeShawn Roberts, Nasir Woodard

Who Am I

I am a Pit Bull biting my tail.  
 I am as brown as my hair.  
 I am a blue sky moving to Texas.  
 I am a cloud, fluffy and very soft.  
 I am feeling happy. jumping up and down.  
 I am a tree blowing in the wind.  
 I am an angel floating in the blue sky.

— Oshyn Marie Robinson



Who Am I

I am a lion sneaking around.  
I am as blue as the sky.  
I am roaring like the thunder.  
I am a tree throwing  
    pine cones at people.  
I am as happy as a clam.  
I am a bush standing still.  
I am Jonathan Romero.

— Jonathan Romero



Who Am I

I am a dog barking for treats.  
I am brown.  
I am a bark from a dog.  
I am a house giving shelter to a dog.  
I am joy.  
I am a leaf falling on a dog.  
I am Zalayah, kind — sometimes.  
I am Somebody!

— Zalayah Switzer



Who Am I

I am a bear watching out for prey.  
I am red, as red as a tomato.  
I am a *grrr . . . . a roarrrr*.  
I am the night sky watching over the world.  
I am protection.  
I am a mountain, the tallest mountain in the world.  
I am Sanai, kind and funny.

— Sanai Vega



Dancer  
(a Cinquain)

Dancer —  
Her hair swinging  
Arching like a rainbow  
Her outfit is glinting, glinting —  
My dream

Haiku

Dancer's outfit glints —  
    body arching, a rainbow  
Her hair swings around.

— Sanai Vega



Who Am I

I am a goose sitting in calm water.  
I am pastel yellow, the yellow of a baby chick.  
I am a flute as quiet as a whisper.  
I am a calm cloud in a clear sky.  
I am calmness reading a book.  
I am a burning bush, so colorful.  
I am Mikayla relaxing on a soft bed.

— Mikayla Velez



Cinquain

Nature

I saw the sky.  
You and I are nature —  
Colors, bright as shimmering glass:  
My life.

— Nyree Waiters

Haiku I

The earth, powerful  
as a lion battling  
all its enemies.

Haiku II

Trees were watching me  
just like every living thing —  
Butterflies flying.

— Nyree Waiters

Who Am I

I am a tiger stalking my prey.  
I am blue, the color of the sky.  
I am a *roarrrrrrrr*, yelling in anger.  
I am nature, bright and beautiful.  
I am joy, happy and playful.  
I am a tree spreading my arms.  
I am Nyree, powerful and strong.

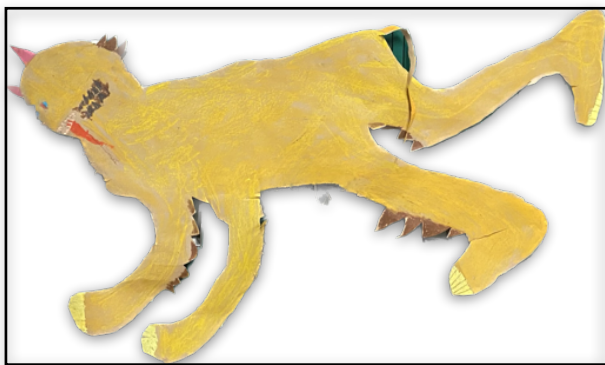
— Nyree Waiters



Who Am I

I am a cheetah dashing in the dark  
like a shadow of a ghost.  
I am green, like a Greenland shark.  
I am a guitar playing in the clouds.  
I am a bolt of lightning  
shattering the sky like glass.  
I am excitement jumping in the water.  
I am a leaf flying in the wind.  
I am Aedyn Lucian Weech-Kosmatine.

— Aedyn Lucian Weech-Kosmatine



Who Am I

I am a lion preparing for battle.  
I am as green as grass.  
I am a growling *grrrrr*, scaring my prey.  
I am the jungle embracing trees.  
I am happiness, after winning the battle.  
I am a leaf in the fall.  
I am Shannon.

— Shannon Wiley



Who Am I

I am a big dog.  
I am black, as black as my shirt.  
I am a bark, loud and shrill.  
I am a cumulus nimbus cloud  
stacked as high as the Eiffel Tower.  
I am happiness.  
I am a volcano exploding.  
I am Alexander,  
the strongest kid in the world.

— Alexander Wisniewski



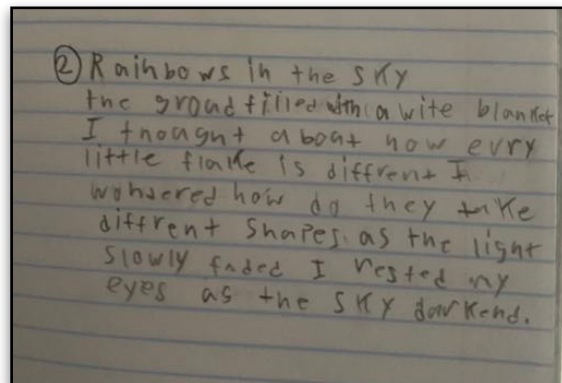
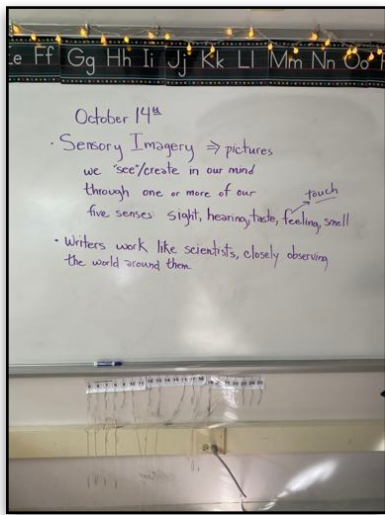




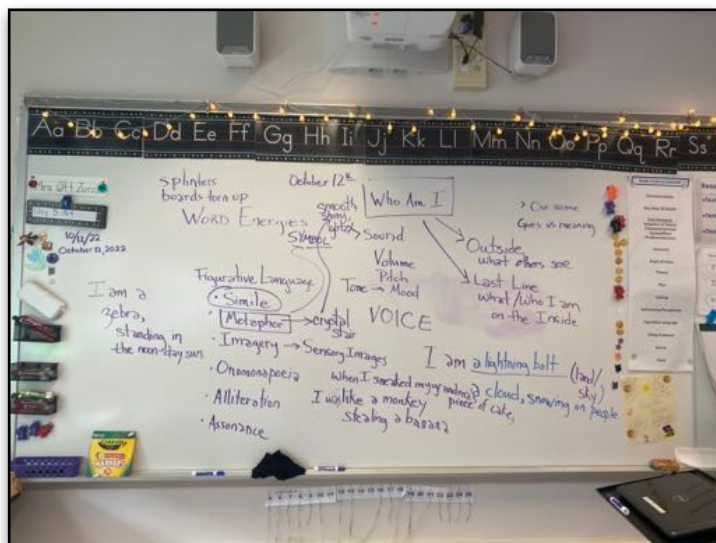
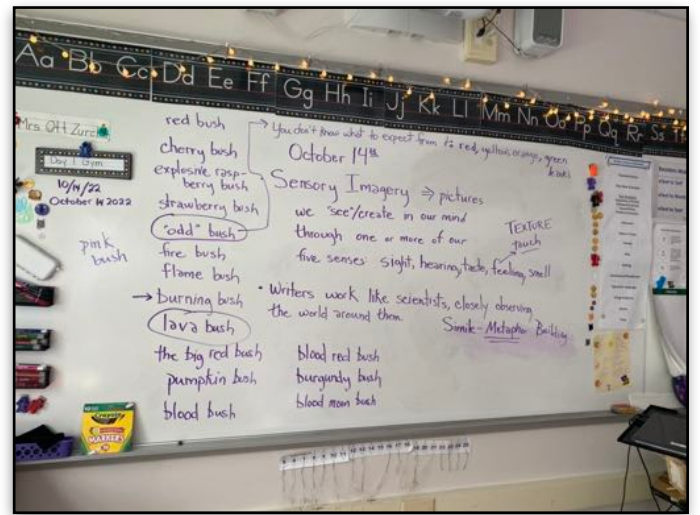
Who Am I

- I am a small rabbit.
- I am gold, as gold as a trophy.
- I am *meow meow meow*.
- I am a fat cloud moving through the sky.
- I am *pepe*.
- I am a cabybara.
- I am Bugs Bunny hopping around.

— Marcus Zapata



Journal entry by Liara Cosme and Beatrice Dolanc





## Glossary

Alliteration = the repetition of the beginning consonant sound in a series of two or more words, for example in Jayla Holloway's "Who Am I" poem, line six: "sharp, spiky spider." In her poem "Grass," she uses alliteration in the third and fifth lines, as well: "clouds covering a stormy sky" and "the rain roars."

Anaphora = the repetition of a word or a phrase at the beginning of a series of sentences, as seen in the *Who Am I* poems.

Cinquain = a five-line stanza poem with a particular syllable count per line: 1st line has two syllables; 2nd line, four syllables; third line, six syllables; fourth line, eight syllables; and fifth line, two syllables

Couplet = two line stanza

Figure of Speech = an expression that plays with the literal meaning of the words to create a literary effect. Alliteration, hyperbole, metaphor, and simile are just a few examples of figures of speech.

Haiku = a traditional Japanese poetic form that has three lines, with roughly a five-seven-five syllable count per line. The haiku connects the immediate world (the every day) with the universal and often leaves the reader with a question to reflect on. Typically, the haiku's themes revolve around nature and one of the seasons, which, in Japan, includes the New Year, the fifth season.

Hyperbole = an obvious exaggeration used to emphasize a point or create an image, for example: The cranky old codger's voice was as gravelly as a torn-up old road.

Imagery = a "picture" created by the use of words (and figures of speech) that can be seen in the reader's mind, for example in Alex Baez's Cinquain: "The sky is on fire/burning flames in the calm water/— Lava."

Metaphor = a direct comparison of two unlike things where characteristics of the second thing is given to the first, for example, in Ty'Shaun Gunn's poem, line three: "I am silence creeping up to my prey."

Meter = the rhythmic beat of each line, created by the accented and unaccented syllables of words

Mood = the emotional attitude the writer holds toward the subject

Narrator = the speaker telling the story from his/her/their particular point-of-view (way of seeing)

Onomatopoeia = the sound of the word conveys the meaning of the word, for example: roar, hiss, crash, snap.

Persona = the perspective (point-of-view) the speaker uses in a poem. It is not necessarily the same viewpoint held by the writer.

Point-of-View = the perspective or attitude from which a speaker/narrator/persona sees and interprets the world around her/him/them. A point-of-view can be expressed in first person in which the pronoun I is used; second person, in which the pronoun you is used; and third person, in which she/he/it/they are used.

Renga = a Japanese linked-verse poem form in which the stanzas alternate between a haiku and couplet. It is written in community, that is by two or more writers. The syllable count is as follows: 5-7-5-7-7, 5-7-5-7-7. For every haiku, there must be a couplet. The writers take turns composing the different stanzas.

Rhyme = the identity of similar sounds in words, for example in Nicholas Meneskie's poem "Dear Cloud": cry/sky; glare/hair/unaware. In the first stanza, Nicholas plays with rhyme loosely in lines two and three by linking words city, streets, and leaked.

Simile = a direct comparison between two unlike things, using "like" or "as," for example in Aedyn Weech-Kosmatine's poem: "I am a cheetah dashing in the dark like a shadow of a ghost." He begins with the metaphor "I am a cheetah," then shows how he is a cheetah through the simile "dark like a shadow of a ghost." When a simile is constructed with the word "as," usually there will be two, for example in Malaya Hook's poem: "I am black, as black as the starry sky."

Speaker = the narrator of a poem using a particular voice (way of speaking) that shows his/her/their characteristics

Stanza = a group of lines arranged together in a pattern created by meter (rhythmic beat), rhyme, line length, end words, and/or thought. The pauses between stanzas contribute to the poem's overall rhythm, as do the rhythmic beats of the lines themselves.

Tone = the musical quality of the words the writer uses that express his/her/their attitude toward the subject. The tone conveys the mood of a work.

Voice = the sound of the persona/speaker/narrator's voice that conveys his/her/their personality



The Many Voices of Harding's 5th Grade