

POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP 1

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INTRODUCTION TO WRITING POETRY

1. Pick 3 emotions or feelings

E.G. *Hunger love hate anger jealousy envy rage lust vanity indifference boredom sorrow sadness loneliness anxiety disgust desire amusement horror fear satisfaction amusement adoration excitement entrancement relief surprise inspiration interest peace pity outrage suspicion emptiness doubt*

2. Now assign each emotion or feeling verb that describes how it feels.

Remember, a verb is a word that describes an action.

E.G. *Love blooms*
Rage simmers
Sadness engulfs

3. Now situate it or place it somewhere.

E.G. *Love blooms in your belly*
Rage simmers behind his smile
Sadness engulfs his being

4. Apply a simile to each phrase. A simile compares one thing to another thing.

E.G. *Love blooms in your belly like a rose*
Rage simmers behind his smile like a fire
Sadness engulfs his being like a shadow

5. Now let's situate or place the simile somewhere.

E.G. *Love blooms in your belly like a rose in the snow*
Rage simmers in his smile like the fire in his heart
Sadness engulfs him like the shadow of a grave

BE DRAMATIC. ALWAYS BE DRAMATIC. DRAMA IS INTERESTING. INTERESTING IS GOOD.

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6. Start a new line underneath line 1 with a onomatopoeic word.

An onomatopoeic word is a word that sounds like the word it describes, like BANG!

Make your new line approximately the same length and end this sentence with a word that rhymes or almost rhymes.

To find rhyme words I sometime use www.rhymezone.com

E.G. *Love blooms in your belly like a rose in the snow
Ringing in the dark where the wild things grow*

If you count the syllables in each line and imagine them to be beats. There are 11 syllables in the first line and 10 in the second. This is important for the rhythm or meter of your piece.

7. Do the same for your next line 2.

This time you don't need to use onomatopoeia. So, write a line that rhymes or almost rhymes with the second line you write in this exercise, but this time put the new line before the original.

E.G. *Scratching out his eyes in the bowels of the dark
Rage simmers in his smile like the fire in his heart*

8. Pick a consonant and google words that start with that letter.

I picked the letter P, because it makes words pop.

9. Pick two words that start with your letter and sound good together.

They must not be more than 8 syllables in total. Pick one more short word of the same letter

E.G. PERFECT PREMONITION PALACE

10. Use those three words in a sentence that rhymes or almost rhymes with your last line.

Again, make it the same length.

E.G. *Sadness engulfs him, like the shadow of a grave
The perfect premonition of the palace and the slave*

11. Now put them together, but edit them where necessary to make the fit together.

In this case I am going to change the subject from 'his' to 'your' in lines 3, 4, 5 & 6

E.G. *Love blooms in your belly like a rose in the snow
Ringing in the dark where the wild things grow*

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*Scratching out your eyes in the bowels of the dark
Rage simmers in your smile like the fire in your heart
Sadness engulfs you, like the shadow of a grave
The perfect premonition of the palace and the slave*

12. Finally, add two more lines that go with this.

Then press return in the middle of each line to make more shorter lines:
Then press return to insert a line break after every four lines, to create verses.

E.G. *Love blooms in your belly like a rose in the snow
Ringing in the dark where the wild things grow.
Scratching out your eyes in the bowels of the dark
Rage simmers in your smile like the fire in your heart
Sadness engulfs you, like the shadow of a grave.
The perfect premonition of the palace and the slave
and the sky turns black and the sea turns red
the new day dawns bringing flowers for the dead*

Becomes

*Love blooms in your belly
Like a rose in the snow
Ringing in the dark
Where the wild things grow*

*Scratching out your eyes
In the bowels of the dark
Rage simmers in your smile
Like the fire in your heart*

*Sadness engulfs you,
Like the shadow of a grave.
The perfect premonition
Of the palace and the slave*

*And the sky turns black
And the sea turns red
the new day is dawning
Bringing flowers for the dead*

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