Close to You

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Letter from Poet

Hello Readers! I named my poetry collection “Close to You” because I think it is fascinating to explore why you are so open with your loved ones. Some humans just have a connection with other humans and I think that is very special. My works do not follow a certain theme, they just outline different topics and ideas that are interesting to me and showcase who I am. My hope for these poems is to show you another way of looking at the world and allow you to get to know me a little better. I hope you enjoy!



Blitz Poem

- Quick and shows stream of consciousness

Rules:

- Line 1 is a short phrase, cliche, or image
- Line 2 is another short phrase using the same first words as the first word as Line 1
- Lines 3 and 4 should be short phrases using the last word of Line 2 as their first words
- Lines 5 and 6 should be short phrases using the last word of line 4 as their first words, and so on until you reach line 48
- Line 49 is the last word of line 48
- Line 50 is the last word of Line 47
- The title of the poem is the first word of line 3, then a preposition or conjunction, and then the first word of line 47
- No punctuation

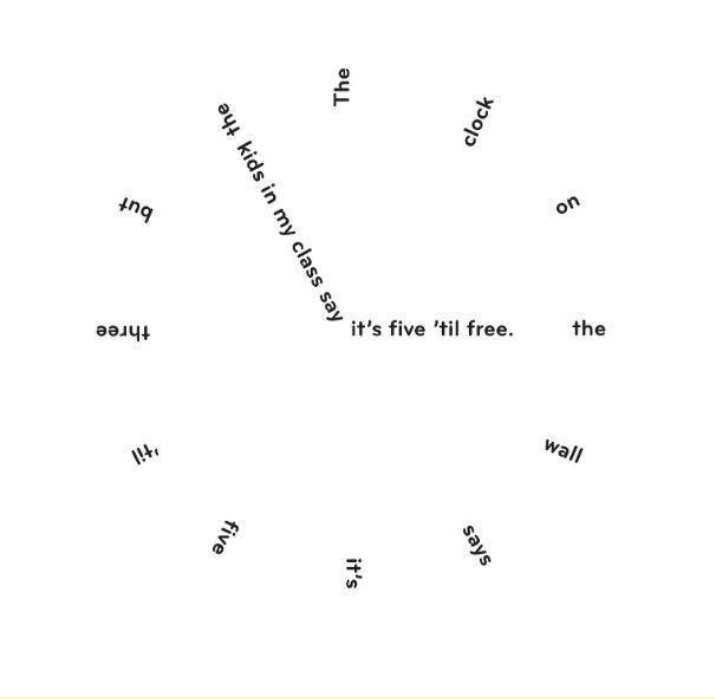
Heart by Then

“Piece of cake”
Piece of my heart
Heart is pounding
Heart beats fast
Fast cars
Fast all day
Day of sunshine
Day of rain
Rain and thunder
Rain is temporary
Temporary shut down
Temporary people
People are fun
People come and go
Go away
Go travel
Travel wide
Travel far
Far from me
Far from home
Home for the time being
Home alone
Alone at night
Alone again
Again it happens
Again you come
Come to me
Come to visit
Visit the past
Visit your family
Family matter
Family is forever
Forever doesn't last
Forever I am here
Here you come again
Here is where I stay
Stay with me
Stay inside
Inside my heart
Inside my mind
Mind the gap
Mind of its own
Own your story
Own it
It doesn’t go away
It doesn’t leave
Leave, then
Leave me be
Be your own person
Then, don’t apologize

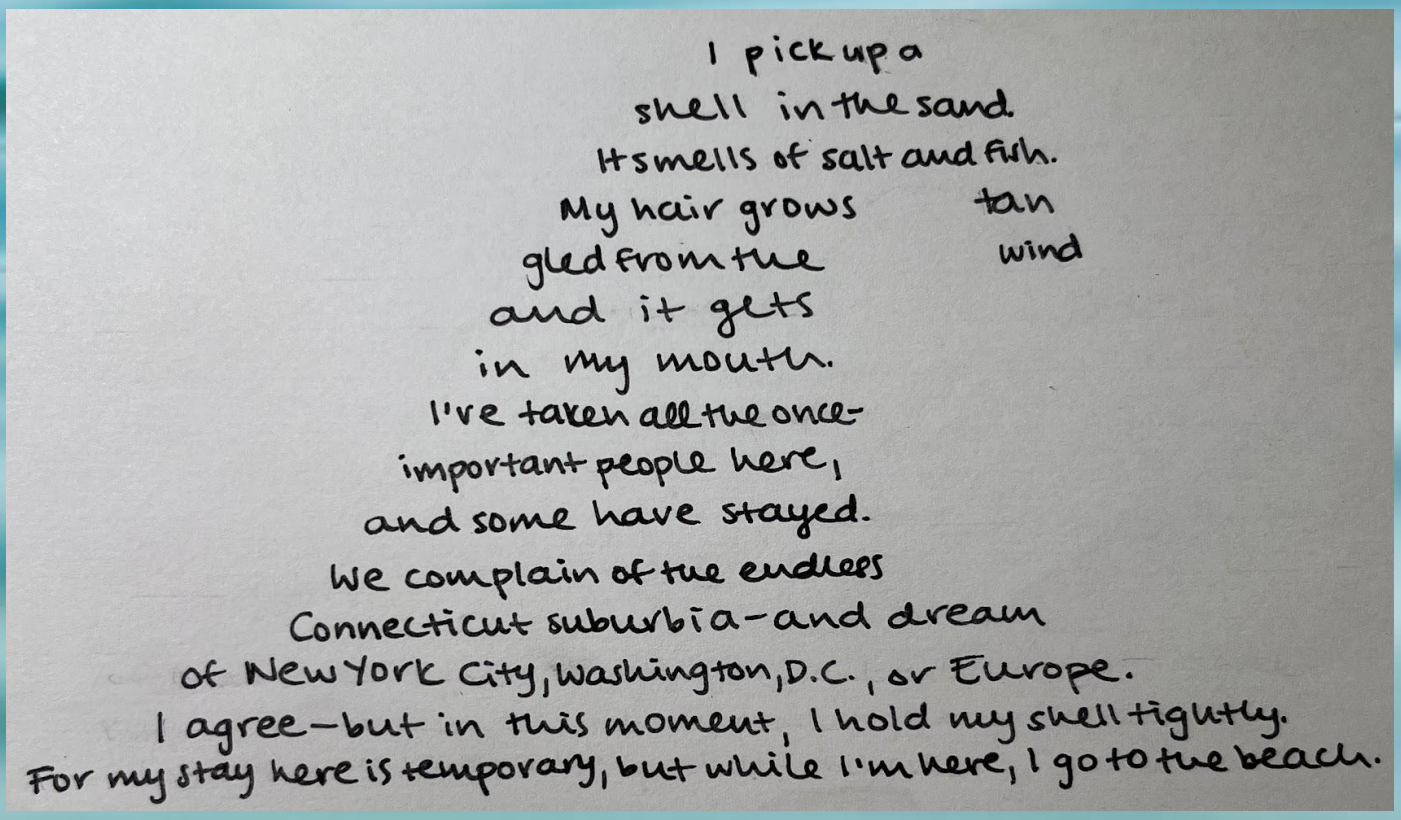


Concrete Poem

- Also called a shape poem
- Describes a shape using words
- Placement of words create that shape
- Can be written about anything, as long as it is the shape of the subject you are writing about
- Does not have to write



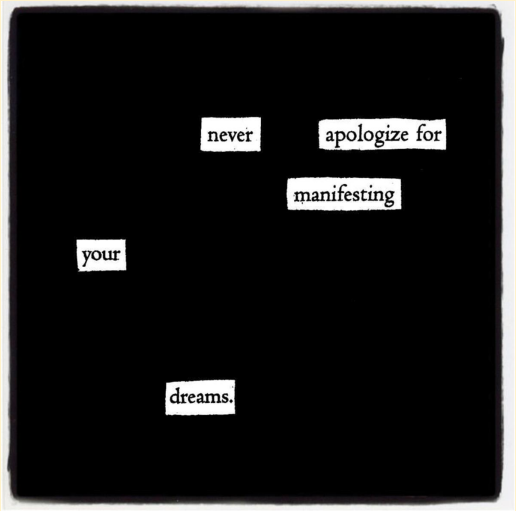
The Wave



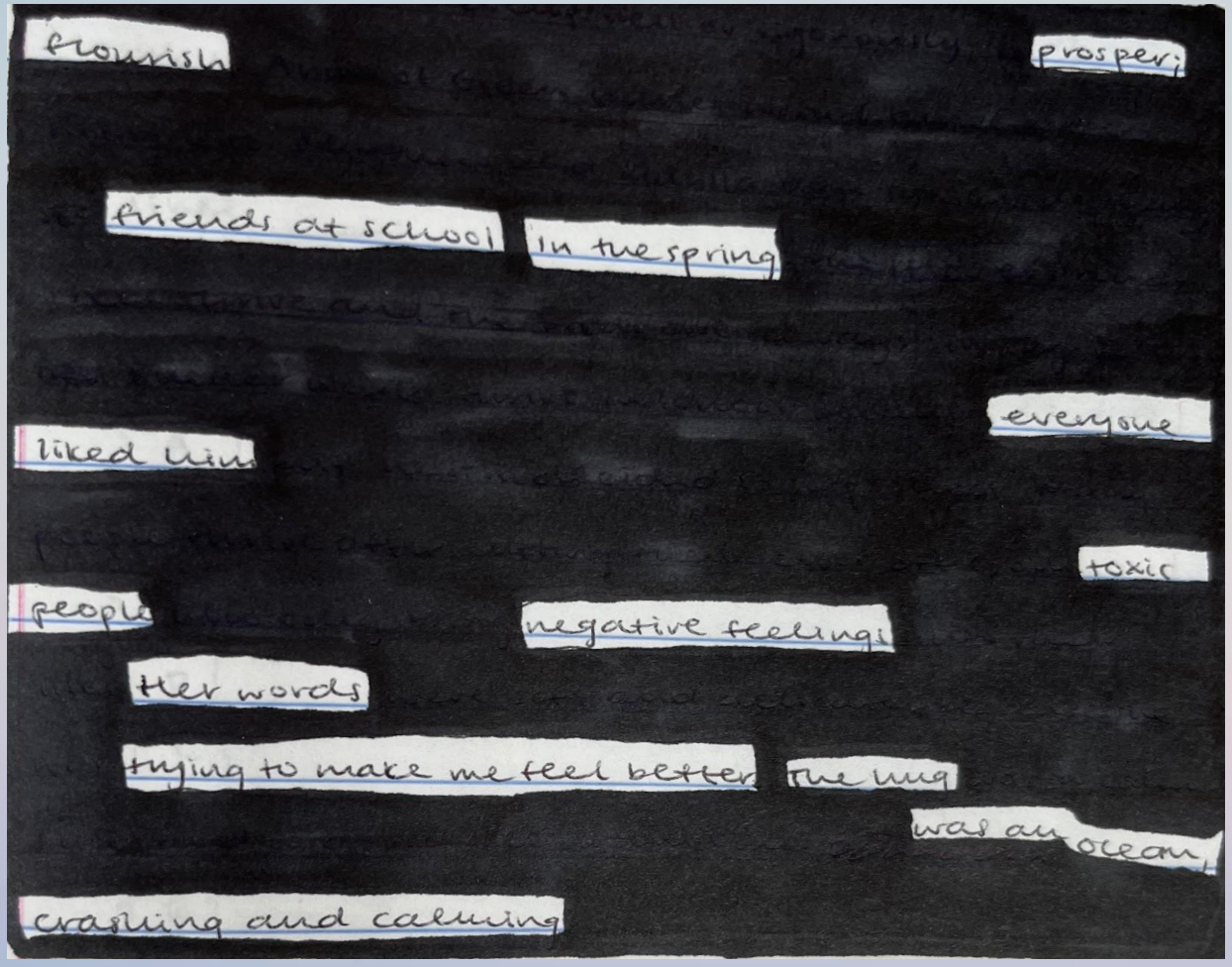
I pick up a
shell in the sand.
It smells of salt and fish.
My hair grows tan
gled from the wind
and it gets
in my mouth.
I've taken all the once-
important people here,
and some have stayed.
We complain of the endless
Connecticut suburbia-and dream
of New York City, Washington, D.C., or Europe.
I agree—but in this moment, I hold my shell tightly.
For my stay here is temporary, but while I'm here, I go to the beach.

Blackout Poem

- Taking a piece of text from a book, newspaper, or magazine
- Choosing words that stick out to you
- Blacking out the rest of the words with a black marker which creates a poem
- Does not follow rules
- For my poem, I used a quick write and then chose words from it that stuck out to me
- The quick write prompts
    - Think of the action verb thrive and define it in your own words in a well-thought paragraph that:
    - Illustrates your definition with 5 examples from real life, pop culture, literature, or history
    - Include 2 uses of synesthesia (experience one sense through another)
    - Create one metaphor



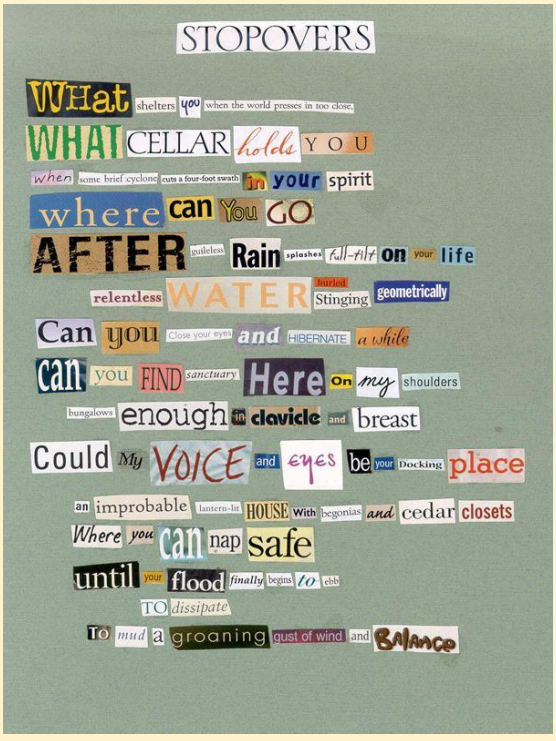
Finding the Right People



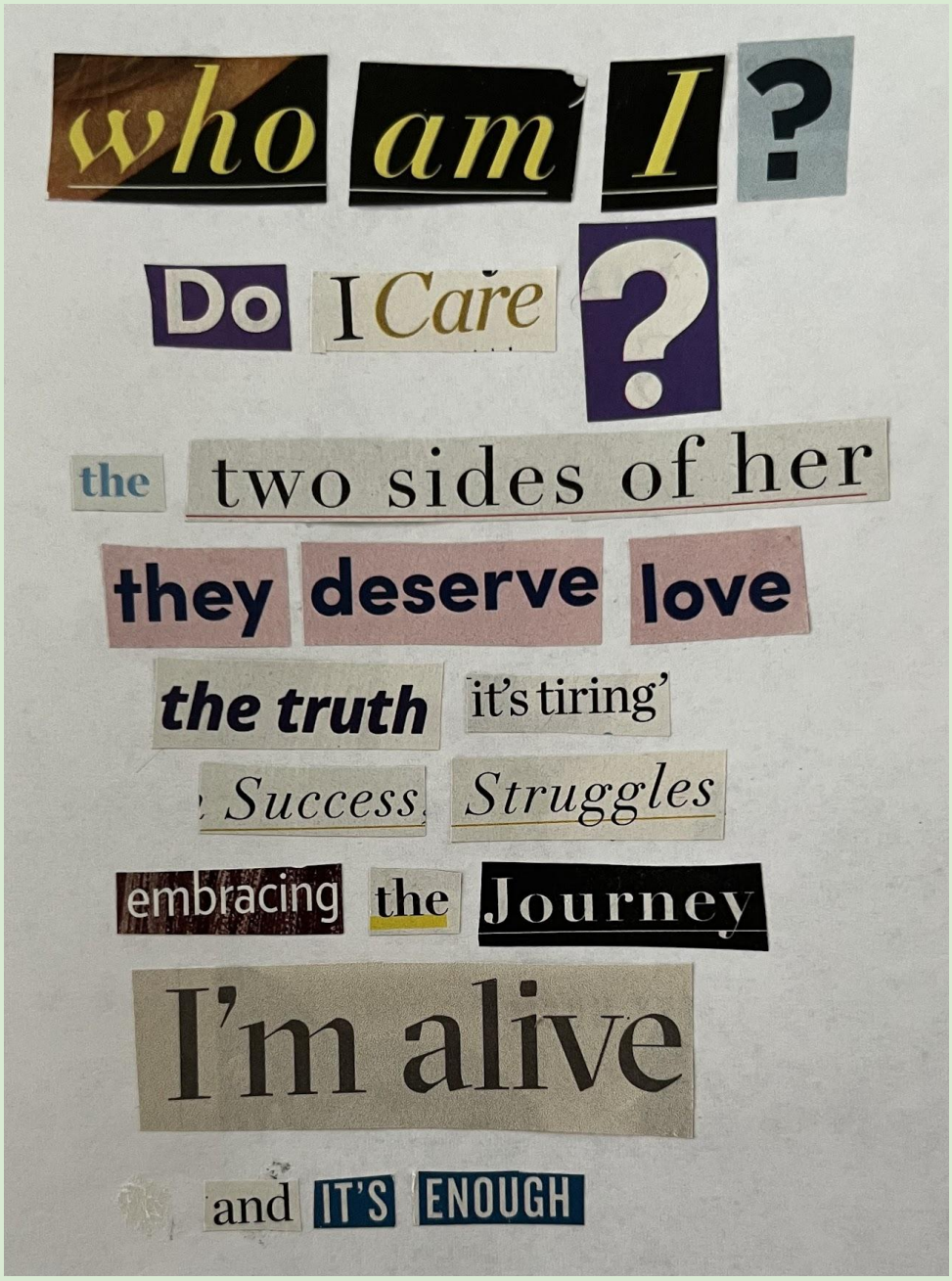
Clippin Poem

Instructions:

- Using old magazines, cut out random words or phrases that catch your eye
- Do not try to find meaning, just cut out words or phrases that stick out to you
- Then look at all the cut-outs and find meaning within them
- Assemble them together into a poem and glue down on a sheet of paper



Up and Down


who am I ?
Do I Care ?
the two sides of her
they deserve love
the truth it's tiring'
Success Struggles
embracing the Journey
I'm alive
and IT'S ENOUGH

Haiku

- Short form of poetry originating in Japan
- Total of 17 syllables
- First line is 5 syllables, second line is 7 syllables, third line is 5 syllables
- Traditional Japanese haikus have references to nature or the seasons





Have Fun on Vacation
I don’t belong here
I know how these people will act
But they are not me

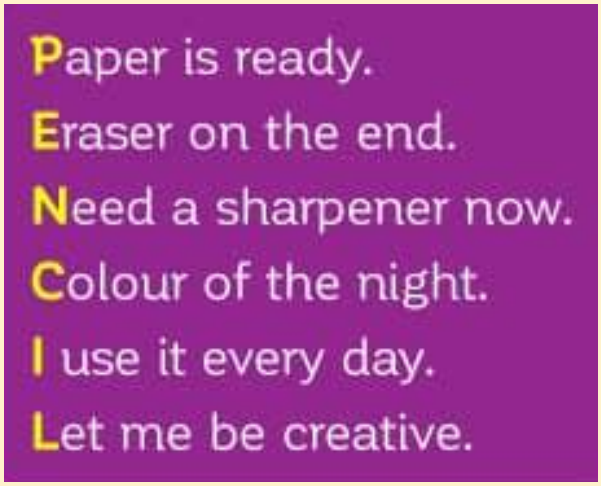
Prague
I hear the bells ring
Everyone has somewhere to be
Do I stop or go?

Sister
I can’t imagine
Saying goodbye to my companion
Side by side for life



Acrostic poem

- Letters from each line (typically the first letter of the first word) are used to spell out a word or sentence
- When the first letter of each line isn't being used, certain letters from each line are capitalized to create a kind of "code" which spells out a message

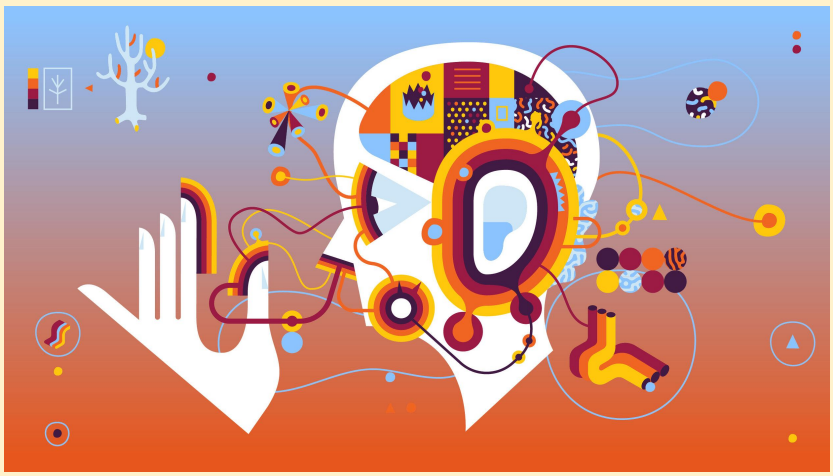


Bilingual Kids

Being here doesn't feel like home.
I reach for a life we can't have.
Living here seems unrealistic, but
I can finally see my grandparents.
No longer are we far from them.
Going away – I leave my American life behind
United States seem more appealing but
All my family is here. This was the
Life we were supposed to live.

Synesthesia

- In literature, synesthesia is a literary device where the sense are blended to describe an object
- Also is a neurological condition where information meant to stimulate one of your senses stimulates several of your senses
- The word “synesthesia” comes from the Greek words; “synth” (together) and “ethesia” (perception)
- My synesthesia poem is written in free verse and therefore does not follow a certain pattern or rhyme scheme



My Yellow



I reach to touch the yellow
It is ticklish and smells of wood
Twitching and turning, it can't stay still for long
It smiles and plays games with me
And makes dumb jokes to make me laugh
But it stops
It can tell something is wrong
I open up to yellow and yellow opens up to me
Yellow will be a memory

Multicultural concrete poem

- Poems our class created to celebrate Multicultural Week
- Instructions:
  - Fill in the heart with a poem about what you love about your heritage/culture
  - Include two metaphors and two imiles
  - Two homographs or homonyms
  - At least two words or phrases from your culture or language(s)
  - Two examples of synesthesia or vivid sensory details that evoke the smells, tastes, visuals, sounds and textures of your culture



Czech

Czechs will check that they are being respected
*“Host do domu, hůl do ruky,”** they say
They bear their pride like a grizzly bear
And work hard like honey bees
Saying, *“Bez prace nejsou kolače”*****
They spread their plain ideas on a plain of wheat
They are diamonds of resilience,
And weary who they show love to

**Guest in the house, stick in the hand*
***Without work there is no kolace*- a Czech pastry



Billy Collins Writing Exercise Poem

- Billy Collins was the Poet Laureate of the United States from 2001 to 2003
- Poem inspired by a writing exercise from Billy Collins' Master Class
- Writing Exercise on page 9: In the evening, write a list of twenty things you did that day. Use this form: "I did this, I did that, I washed the dishes, I read the newspaper," etcetera. The only rule is: don't list these things in chronological order. Review your list of twenty activities and see if any of them spark a line of poetry. Try to make use of one of these seemingly mundane (not!) activities to write a longer poem (like me reading the word "lanyard" or Proust tasting a madeleine). Using your own words and memories, try to imitate some of these formal features. Could any of your lines become the first line of a poem? Once you have a direction, have a seat somewhere busy and write. This could be in the grass at a park, inside a noisy cafe, at a bus stop, et cetera. As you write, let certain distractions make their way into your poem. What do these distractions add? How do they surprise you?

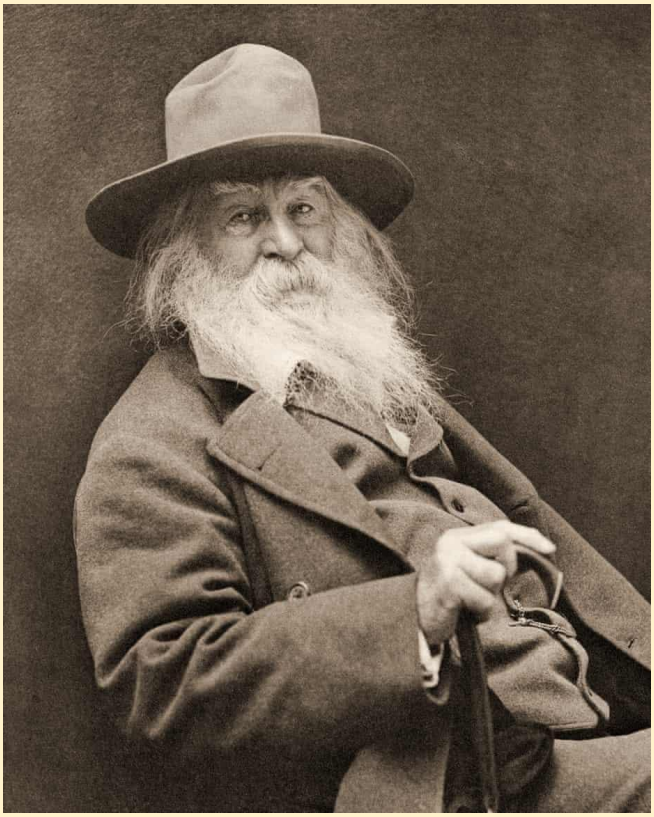


Graduation

I sang a song in the car with her today,
Like we always do
We turned a corner and reality set in
A friend so dear, a sister so close
In six months time, we're packing up our lives
Will I say a joke to ease this moment
Or maybe even cry?
I grow uneasy but the song changes and our car moves along
and I'll have to say goodbye

Free Verse

- Poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular meter
- Commonly used by Walt Whitman
- Nonmetrical, non-rhyming lines that closely follow the natural rhythms of speech



Hypocrites

We are all the same because we are different
We walk over the same hills, just in different regions
We talk about the same annoyances, just with different characters
We make the same mistakes, only to commit them again
We are all hungry for something,
we are never satisfied
We are all cliches, by the traits that set us apart
We are courageous when we show weakness
We are boring because we are interesting
We criticize others for our own insecurities
We fall back into the habits of our past
We are hypocrites
We are all the same – because we are different

