

# **Rachel Guido DeVries Poetry Day One November 22, 2002**

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## NOTES and ASSIGNMENT

Poet=Artist=create

4 c's: Courage, confidence, creativity ----- community

Having a community that supports you, helps you as a writer.

(Turn your back on the ones who laugh at you and embrace the ones who want you to succeed)

What do you write with?

Write with the soul  
Heart (feelings)  
Brain - Imagination  
Life  
Freedom  
Experiences  
Memories  
Knowledge

### ***Figurative Language:***

**Metaphor:** My soul is a trembling leaf.

### **Simile**

I run as fast as a cheetah.

**Personification:** When a non-living thing is given human characteristics.

**Magical Realism** Blending something real with something magical.

Your assignment is to blend something real (a part of yourself) with something "magical" (something in the natural world).

Take something in you and compare it to something in nature. Create a poem about yourself blending something real with something magical.

Pick something from the list and pair it with the natural world.

Soul- My soul floats in the clouds of life.

### **The Poet Pencil**

Once upon a time a pencil wanted to write poetry but it didn't have a point. One day a boy put it into the sharpener, and in place of a point, a river appeared.

Jesus Carlos Soto Morfin

Translated by Judith Infante

Circle the words that are real.

Circle what is imaginary.

What's real and what transforms into something that is magical.

The pencil wanting to write is an example of personification. When a non living thing is given human characteristics.

How does the real become magical?

What becomes magical?.

What real word becomes magical?

A river of .... What else can that river become?

I felt like a tulip in a field of lilies.

I am a peach tree

Metaphor for a difficult childhood

Compare child to tree

What do you know about this kid?

What do you know about this kid and how do you know it?

Look at the poem and tell me how you know this. You can tell the whole story of this kid's life without having him say that his childhood has been awful.

List phrases

Peach tree is the controlling metaphor

Small people pick on me

A Tree Within

The obvious magic

What are the things he compares with things in him?

Who do you think causes the fire?

Butterfly Flying Through Other Minds

2<sup>nd</sup> stanza:

What's the image that picks up on the idea of panic?

What does that butterfly stand for?

What's the feeling?

Poetry tells the truth of your feelings It's an image. There's no right answer.

## Rachel Guido DeVries Poetry Day Two November 25, 2002

### NOTES and ASSIGNMENT

Reading of class's assignment on magical realism by Rachel. As she read, you were to listen for poems you liked and phrases you liked. The class had a paper set up into two columns labeled - Poems I like  
Words I like

Sense of community: When reading, no one gets out of seat -gives sense of community to group

#### **Assignment:**

Choices: Create a poem about one of these:

- **What is "cool" to you?** What is to you? Take a look at the example Who Decides? Each generation defines cool in a different way. How is it defined in your generation?
- **If you were in charge of the universe** – dream for the world If there is one thing you could change, what would you change? How would you change it?
- **Where do you belong?** To your family? yourself?, the earth? Where?

Look to the examples of these types of poems on the attachment.

# **Rachel Guido DeVries Poetry Day Three November 26, 2002**

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## **The Structure of a Poem**

Poetry has a structure – It is a type of mathematics – the structure of the poem

Begin to study poetry by studying other writers' poetry.

Poetry is an art Anything you feel, you can craft into language. That language takes wings and flies.

**Poem structure:** Simply put, poetry goes into stanzas. Think of stanzas as paragraphs without indentations.

Stanza: no indentations

Lines You can write in fragments, words, sentences.

The first draft is probably written in sentences.

When crafting the second draft-Use line breaks

Line break: the break between words. These breaks occur after dramatic words, natural pauses, rhyming words, pauses to make sense of the meaning

Poetry has rhyme, pause, sound, and sense.

Beats and rhythm the mathematics of poetry, it's like being a musician – line breaks to break up the music

In music there is a rest That is the cousin to a line break.

Look at the children's rhyme "Jack and Jill".....

Jack and Jill

Went up the hill

How do you know that line breaks on hill? It rhymes. It's a natural break.

What happens when we monkey around with the line break?

Jack and Jill went up

The hill to fetch

Doesn't make sense.

It doesn't sound right.

Look at the rhyme and rhythm. Give thought to this.

Syllabics:

Same numbers of syllables on every line. Syllabics influence beat-rhythm

Try to write a poem with the beat of your favorite music.

**When you go to revise your poem and set it up for a poem:**

Read it softly out loud.

Wherever you pause, that's a good place to set up your line break..

Look at other poems and see what other poets do

The rhyme of your words tell you were to pause.

It does have a shape of its own.

**Assignment #3 Thanksgiving Poem**

Using the handout Over the Thanksgiving break, create a poem of thanks.

Look within yourself What do you carry around with you that drives you? Are you thankful for the passion that drives you as a human being? Give a little thought about what you walk around with every day. Not hokey. Every behavior you have tells about you: tells about you, your family, what you believe, reveals what is within you. aAl have the potential to reveal everything, every single thing you do reveals you. It's up to you how you put that into the world.

Which is the real you? That's a way to reveal- When you are thankful for what you have within. – What is it that you find within yourself that you are thankful for?

Take the risk and reveal yourself