

Writing Challenge 3.0: Poet-Try

engl 281 / sec. D / autumn quarter 2009-10 / chang

This week's writing challenge asks you to try your hand at poetry. Given that it is impossible to attend to thousands of years of poetry in a single writing assignment, for our purposes, we will define poetry as language used for language's sake. In other words, unlike other forms of writing, poetry is preoccupied with an economy of words, the shape of words on a page, the sound of words, rhythm, pattern, figures of speech, and the evocation of feeling, drama, myth—all condensed to artfully controlled lines, breaks, stanzas, spaces, and punctuation. For this writing challenge, you are to produce a minimum of three poems. The subject matter of the poems is up to you, but think about how each poem might be part of a larger collection of poetry. Write about what you know. The poems must be at least 14 lines in length or more. One of the poems should demonstrate a specific poetic form such as a song, a sonnet, a villanelle, a rondeau, a sestina, even a series of haiku (you might have to do a little research). Successful poems will demonstrate a careful attention to language, to form, to multiple meanings, and to communicating an idea or feeling or argument.

Guidelines and Due Dates

Format: 3 poems, one poem per page, typed, no title page, proper heading

Due: Tuesday, October 20, at the start of class

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