Writing Workshops – Social Commentary Poem

All resources available on msdickie.weebly.com

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Metaphor Vignette:**

Make a list of 15 social issues, quality or values that are present or not taken for granted in the left side of two columns. On the right side list 15 random objects as fast as you can.

Choose one from the left and one from the right which are not traditionally related. Write a free write comparing the issue on the left to the object on the right. Ex. Apathy is like a pebble under the current of the rapids.

LIST: (free write on next page)

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Free write:

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1. **Apostrophe to one of the social issues:**

An apostrophe is a type of poem which is a direct address either to an absent person or to an abstract or inanimate entity. Choose one issue/ idea/ quality/ sub-idea and write to that thing as though it can hear you. Use second person (you).

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1. **“I have a Dream” Free write:**

Listen to the clip of Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech and look at the excerpt. Try to come up with your own hook, or refrain, which you can repeat at the start of each line like he does with “now this is the time” or “I have a dream”. Be sure to include metaphors as he does throughout. Extend your thoughts and keep writing using the repetition and figurative language he has modelled.

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1. **“Glad you came” free write:**

Poetry often uses repetition in different ways to appeal to the reader. Listen to the song “Glad You Came” and examine how it uses repetition. Select one of the issues from your list (1st free write) and construct a poem using a similar repetition technique.

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1. **Ode Free Write:**

An Ode is a poem that talks about how awesome and wonderful something is. Choose one item from the right column of your first free write and write an ode to it. You can choose the tone you wish to use for your ode – but be sure to use hyperbolic language as you are trying to describe this object as an incredible gift to the world.

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1. **Elegy Free Write:**

An elegy is written to mourn for the loss of someone or something – it can be a person, a character, an idea, a thing, a dead celebrity – so choose something you are sad to see gone. It could also be something you have no lost but would miss if you did.

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1. **Life Advice**

Write your own free write of your life advice you could dispense.

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1. **Confessional:**

This one is personal and deals with feelings and experiences that have happened to you. You don’t have to be specific, but it does have to be persona; and like you are telling a secret – think Emo music.

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Drafting:

1. Select one of the social issues you outlined in the first writing exercise to construct a social commentary poem about.
2. Go through your free writes and highlight anything you wrote that you feel would fit into a social commentary poem on this issue.
3. Draft a minimum 20 line social commentary poem.

Peer Editing:

1. In pairs examine each poem for the following:
   * Look at the hook (first line) how can it be improved?
   * Highlight the figurative language being used in the poem.
   * Identify at least three areas where figurative language can be added and write it in. (Use a post it if there is no space to add it)
   * Find 10 words that can be elevated. Use a dictionary or thesaurus.
   * Look at the final line of the poem. How can it be improved to give more impact?

Good Copy:

* Must be typed in Times New Roman size 12
* NOT centered
* Standard MLA formatting applies.

Draft:

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