A Mature Three Year Old

Introduction activity

*FOUND POEM*

Read through the poem and give me 5 written observations: consider the set-up, organization, layout, literary devices and title…

What is a found poem??

Found Poem Write

*Taken from, The Glass Castle, by Jeannette Walls*

*(pages 9-11)*

My earliest memory.

I was three years old and pink was my favorite color.

I was wearing a pink tutu.

I liked to spin around in front of the mirror.

A Ballerina.

A pink tutu ballerina.

Then.

I shrieked.

I smelled burning.

Horrible crackling.

Singed hair and eye lashes.

I screamed.

I screamed again.

I was on fire.

I was three years old and I was on fire.

“Help me!” I shrieked.

I watched the yellow-white flames make a ragged brown line up the pink fabric of my skirt.

The flames leaped up.

Reaching my face.

I felt the blaze.

I was three years old.

I was wearing the dress to cook hot dogs.

Boiling water and my Mom in the next room; she worked on one of her painting.

Dad had gone off in the car.

What was I doing cooking hotdogs by myself at the age of three?

“Mom says I’m mature for my age and she lets me cook for myself a lot.”

Found Poem Description

*Found Poems* are a poem you create by “borrowing” from a source—whether it’s a news article, a book, a short story, or even yourself. The purpose is to explore the author’s writing and reorganize it to fit a certain theme or message. The poem should “borrow” great lines that have impact, especially if they are using powerful creative language and grammar (think: literary devices!). They also should play with structure, stanzas, and organization. Look at the second sample which was inspired by my own writer’s notebook entry.

Found Poems will also need to have citation; you should acknowledge that you “borrowed” from someone or someplace else with the source’s name, page numbers, etc.

Assignment:

Go through your writer’s notebook and pick a prose (paragraph passage) to rewrite in the found poem format. You should consider how to reorganize the idea in a new way so less is more and will better fit the quote by Voltaire where “*One merit of poetry few persons will deny: it says more and in fewer words than prose.”*

*Specific Requirements:*

1. Pick a paragraph write from your own writer’s notebook or a section from your silent reading book.
2. Rewrite it in the found poem format (use the left side of your notebook).
3. After you write it, type it and then annotate it (like my sample below) by sharing and celebrating your thought process, organization, and great syntax or literary devices, etc.
4. You will turn in a final product for me to review and grade!

*Questions/Notes:*

Paragraph Inspired Sample:

Original Paragraph:

It was time. My favorite time—when the sky faded to a rich, dark promising black and the lights turned on. Oh the lights. It never failed. I loved the night and the light show that illuminated my waters and gave me—what’s the word—style.

I am pretty old. I have been throwing over thousands of gallons of water on this steep cliff for centuries. Occasionally the rocks below will groan and cry as the water seeps inside them and they fall to the bottom. Some of them float downstream, some remain below, continuously hit by the water. Many call me “majestic beauty, an old world beauty” with my icy blue waters and white edges but that is so—boring. I’ve watched humanity around me and seen how they have built new beauty—steel grays, fluorescent lights. Have you seen the hard rock café? I can’t compare to colors like that! At least not during the day.

Found Poem:

Give me style

*Taken from “New Perspective” on 1-30-13*

Many call me a majestic beauty.

An old world beauty.

Icy blue waters and white edges and thousands of gallons of water.

Throwing over a steep cliff *for centuries*.

The rocks below me groan and cry—they fall to the bottom.

Some float downstream, some remain below.

Continuously hit by water.

I am pretty old.

So old, and so—boring.

But I love the night!

My favorite time!

When the sky fades to a rich, dark, and promising black.

I love the night and the light show that illuminates my waters and gives me—what’s the word—style.

*Style.*

I am pretty old, but when the lights turn on, oh the lights!

I have watched humanity around me, and seen how they have built *new* beauty.

Steel grays, fluorescent lights.

Have you seen the Hard Rock café?

I can’t compare to colors like that!

At least not during the day.

So I love the night.

Illuminate my waters!

Give me style!

How to do the annotations: see my sample!

*I liked my last line, so I also made it my title.*

Give me style

*Taken from “New Perspective” on 1-30-13*

*This is all personification because I am making the Niagara Falls humanlike*

Many call me a majestic beauty.

An old world beauty.

Icy blue waters and white edges and thousands of gallons of water.

*There is some good imagery here of the colors of the falls*

Throwing over a steep cliff *for centuries*.

The rocks below me groan and cry—they fall to the bottom.

Some float downstream, some remain below.

Continuously hit by water.

*The words I choose here—like groan, cry, old, are good word choices to show the tone—the falls don’t like to be old. Old=boring.*

I am pretty old.

So old, and so—boring.

*AWUBS!*

*Now the poem’s tone changes to positive. I used “!” marks to show the joy and excitement.*

But I love the night!

My favorite time!

*Positive imagery here*

When the sky fades to a rich, dark, and promising black.

I love the night and the light show that illuminates my waters and gives me—what’s the word—style.

*The syntax is the same as the previous stanza with a dash and the word. I wanted to use repetition and show the change from “boring” to “style”*

***Style.***

*Style the most important theme, I made it a one line stanza and used bold italics.*

I am pretty old, but when the lights turn on, oh the lights!

I have watched humanity around me, and seen how they have built *new* beauty.

Steel grays, fluorescent lights.

Have you seen the Hard Rock café?

*This explains WHY the falls wants style—to compete with humanity.*

I can’t compare to colors like that!

At least not during the day.

*The question helps break up the syntax.*

So I love the night.

Illuminate my waters!

Give me style!

*The ending reinforces the big idea. The falls loves the night time and wants style and I used some repetition to help emphasize that.*

**Found Poem Rubric**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/35pts

*Failure to attach the rubric will result in 5-point deduction of the grade!*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 4  Awesome! | 3  Got It! | 2  Almost | 1  Not Quite |
| **Title/Citation** | You have an engaging title and cite your original source (5pts). | You have an appropriate title and cite your original source (4pts). | You have a basic title and cite your original source (3pts). | You fail to include a title and/or cite your original source (0-2pts). |
| **Lines/Poem** | You have at least 10-15 lines that have been chosen and organized for impact and effect. Your poem(s) is/are clever and dynamic and go beyond the basic expectations (10pts). | You have at least 10-15 lines that have been organized successfully. Your poem(s) is/are solid (8pts). | You may not have all 10-15 lines and the poem has some organization but it looks rushed and needs more thought and design (6-7pts). | You are missing a significant number or lines; your poem(s) is/are rushed and incomplete with little thought behind it (0-5pts). |
| **Creativity** | VERY CREATIVE. Your poem(s) and presentation is unique. You created an original piece with your own voice and design (10pts). | SOMEWHAT CREATIVE. Your poem(s) and presentation is appropriate. You created a solid piece (8pts). | BASIC CREATIVITY. Your poem(s) and presentation are basic and rushed. You create a simple piece (6-7pts). | WEAK/LIMITED CREATIVITY. Your poem(s) and presentation are poor and incomplete. You create a sloppy piece (0-5pts). |
| **Reflection Annotations** | You give thoughtful, thorough annotations that explain your poem well (10pts). | You give appropriate annotations that explain most of your poem (8pts). | You give basic and minimal annotations that explain some of your poem (6-7pts). | You give few, if any annotations and explain very little of your poem (0-5pts). |
| **Mechanics** | You are inventive mechanics, and no errors (5pts). | You have appropriate mechanics, and maybe a couple errors, but they aren’t distracting (4pts). | You have basic mechanics and/or several distracting errors (3pts). | You have poor mechanics and/or many distracting errors (0-2pts). |

*Bravo!*

*Next Time:*