



## Mini-Lesson: Writing What You Weren't Ready to Say

### Objective:

Help students explore how structured poetry prompts can surface meaningful emotion, even when the topic isn't initially personal.

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### Opening Discussion / Ask students:

- Have you ever written something just to complete an assignment... but it ended up being emotionally honest?
- Can structure or constraint help us express things we weren't planning to say?

Explain that in this exercise, they'll use form and metaphor to explore something personal (or imagined) in a way that may surprise them.

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### Prompt: Write a short poem using one of the following frames:

- Repetition: Start each line or stanza with the same phrase ("I am," "This is," "They said")
- Contrast: Set up opposing ideas ("A love contained, or a love refined?")
- Extended metaphor: Choose an object (a tree, a box, a mirror, etc.) and use it to describe something emotional

Let them choose from themes like: identity, love, belonging, conflict, family

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### Sample Line Starters:

- "I'm not a \_\_\_\_\_, I'm the \_\_\_\_\_"
  - "They said I was \_\_\_\_\_"
  - "This is what it felt like..."
  - "A love that..."
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### After writing Discussion - Invite students to share:

- What was easier or harder about writing with structure?
- Did the emotion come from their own lives or imagination?
- What line surprised them most?

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