

How to Write a Good Poem

By Lorraine Marwood

Ingredients:

- one notebook
- one pen/or pencil
- two sticky beak eyes
- two eavesdropping ears
- a daily log in/entry

Method:

1. Take a walk around your house. Note down anything unusual: (these are just examples)
 - the way a spider hides in the corner of a room
 - the way sunlight echoes in shadow the lightshade on the ceiling wall
 - a child's handprint on the window
2. Take a walk in the back yard
 - really look at the sky/the clouds
 - really look at an ant- look at eh way it walks- where it goes/what it carries
 - smell the air
 - listen to the sounds of your back yard

Of course jot all this down - add a sketch if you like and most importantly add the date.

3. Write down your day dreams - imagine, wonder why, what if ...
4. Write down your emotions. Are you angry? Are you sad? Are you happy? Write down what triggers these emotions.
5. Write down a favourite line or word from a book/novel/poem you are currently reading.
6. Write down snatches of conversation that you might have overheard.

Then after a week of writing in your notebook it's time to do some baking! Oh I mean writing!

Now:

Look back over your entries - put an asterisk, or underline the observations that really surprise you.

Do the same for an emotion you've written about, a daydream, a line or word from a book, a line of conversation.

Now peel away the unnecessary words like prepositions (in, of and) and keep peeling until you have the strong words of poetry like nouns, and verbs. Put in some emotion, some really interesting details and test to see how delicious your poem tastes!

Here's mine:

Mid afternoon shadow is curved and layered
like an onion beyond its fresh phase.
The fridge makes a small noise like a bolt
fired into steel, then the afternoon school traffic
hums, the gum tree outside jitterbugs slightly
like the jolt of happiness that comes
with the walk home from school.

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If Lorraine's ideas worked for you why not click here www.lorrainemarwood.com and visit her website.