



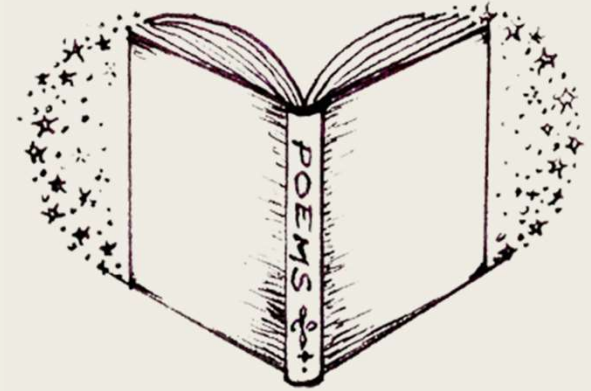
CREATIVE PROJECT PRESENTATION HPEN 6018

Amber McCoy's Poetry Ideas, Purpose, and Process



Choice of Subject

- “Poetry”: Greek “poieo” or “I create”.
- Devices (i.e. anaphora, repetition, assonance, rhyme, etc.)
- Forms (i.e. sonnets, haikus, free verse, etc.)
- The shape of a poem is just as effective as the form or devices used.
- Sound. The manipulation of device and form can emphasize emotional response to a piece through sound.
- Typically poetry is used to communicate emotional ideas rather than to drive characters through a world, although this can also be played with in some forms.
- There is no right or wrong in how to go about writing poetry, it’s a broad subject with many different people having many different viewpoints.



I have decided to go with poetry as the basis for my creative project because it is what I have the most experience in. I also enjoy writing poetry rather than prose. I’m a fairly emotional person and express myself best when I can be concise with my word choice and give myself the freedom of more or less structure depending on what I feel is appropriate for the message of the piece.

Choice of Genre

My project will be a mixture of...

Lyrical:

- Conveys emotions
- Musical quality
- Often brief

WILL there really be a morning?
Is there such a thing as day?
Could I see it from the mountains
If I were as tall as they?

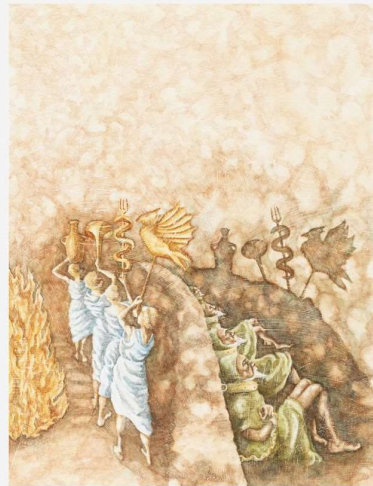
Has it feet like water-lilies?
Has it feathers like a bird?
Is it brought from famous countries
Of which I have never heard?

Oh, some scholar! Oh, some sailor!
Oh, some wise man from the skies!
Please to tell a little pilgrim
Where the place called morning lies!

Example: Emily Dickinson's "Will There Really Be A 'Morning'"

Allegorical:

- Extended metaphor
- Carries and moral meaning
- "characters, places, and objects in a narrative carry figurative meaning" (Poetry Foundation)



Example: Plato's "Allegory of The Cave"

Deep Image:

- "stylized, resonant poetry that operated according to the Symbolist theory of correspondences" (Poetry Foundation)
- Narrative
- Concrete images

AH MOON

I sat here as a boy
On these winter rocks, watching
The moon-shapes change on the skies;
Nor did I know then the moon
Only affects her mortality.

Now no more does a boy
Ah Moon! from these rocks
Or through a frosted window, cry;
And for a dying curve
The wiser heart weeps not.

Example: Galway Kinnell's "Ah Moon"

Reason for Chosen Genres



Lyrical poems are often quite emotional and I've always enjoyed the pleasing musicality of this genre. I also like the idea of having some kind of structure to a poem without being suffocated by it. I can play with and make my own rules for each poem depending on the subject matter I choose for each one.

Allegory has always been interesting to me but has also felt unattainable as I feel it's a higher level device. I do think it will be useful to learn how to manipulate ideas in this way to get across a theme or moral by "showing" not "telling"

"Deep Image" is something new I came across while I was reading up on poetical devices and definitions. As it pertains to narratives which use concrete images to make points through symbolism, I felt it was a natural choice considering the shape most of the poetry I have already written have taken.



Example Passage

Silas II

Distant crows above me hold some fragile
memories of children laughing brightly
while their socks are soaked in puddles rightly.

They sing a long refrain, lost moments in the rain.
Below the brittle moon they slowly croon their tune.

Symbolism:

- ❖ Crows – renewal, death, adaptability, perspective
- ❖ Moon – feminine energy, mystery, the unknown

Concrete Images:

- ❖ Children playing
- ❖ Wet socks

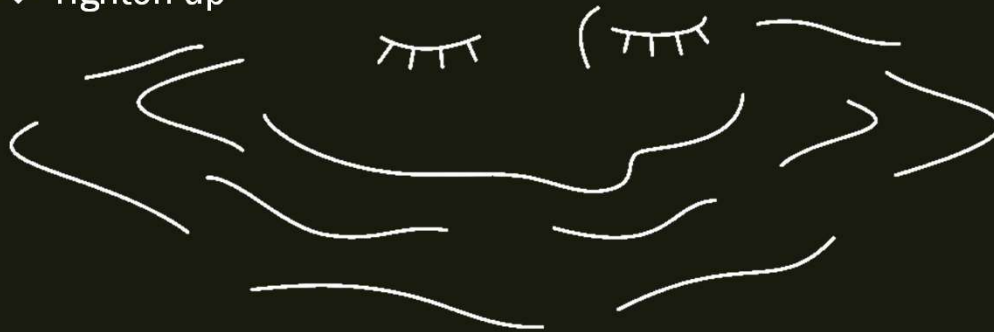
Lyrical:

- ❖ 10 syllables
- ❖ 12 syllables
- ❖ Trochaic
- ❖ Rhyme
- ❖ Alliteration

PROCESS I

How I go about writing the “Silas” poems

- ❖ Begin with a theme/story
- ❖ Make a list of trochaic words which fit the feeling of the theme/story
- ❖ Write out meat of the poem, ignore line breaks and syllables per line
- ❖ Begin breaking down the lines
- ❖ Count syllables, change words where needed
- ❖ Play with verbs and nouns to fit theme, sound, syllables, and end words per line
- ❖ Read aloud
- ❖ Tighten up



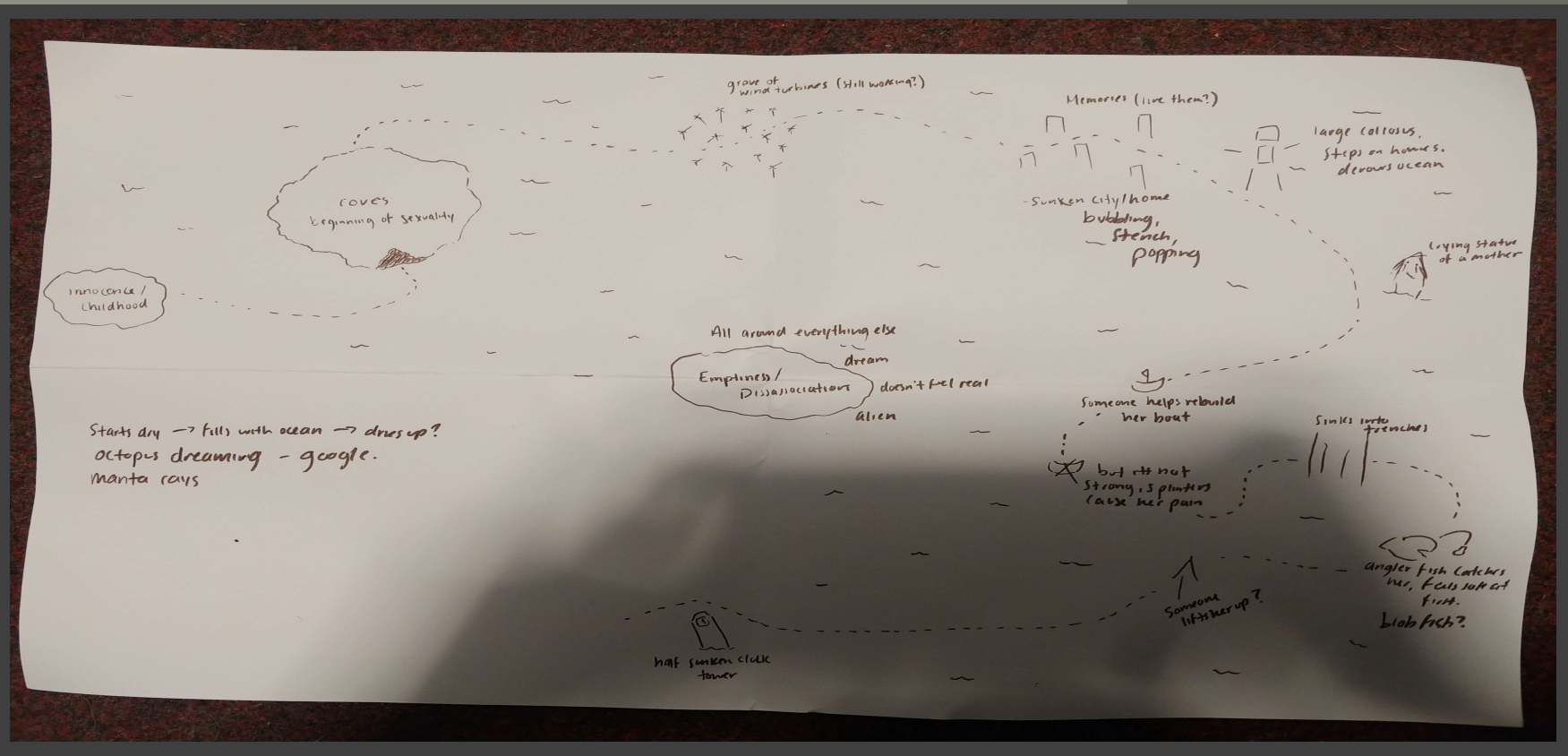
PROCESS II

How I go about writing the “thicker” poems

- ❖ Have a theme or part in the story in mind
- ❖ Write without thinking (mind puke)
- ❖ Find key moments in mind puke and rewrite, ignore line breaks
- ❖ Scan for abstractions, replace with concrete imagery
- ❖ Check for coherence, rewrite or replace where necessary
- ❖ Check first and last lines, remove if second lines are more powerful as they tend to be
- ❖ Leave for at least a day, come back and read aloud
- ❖ Edit where things don't sound nice or places which feel unimportant

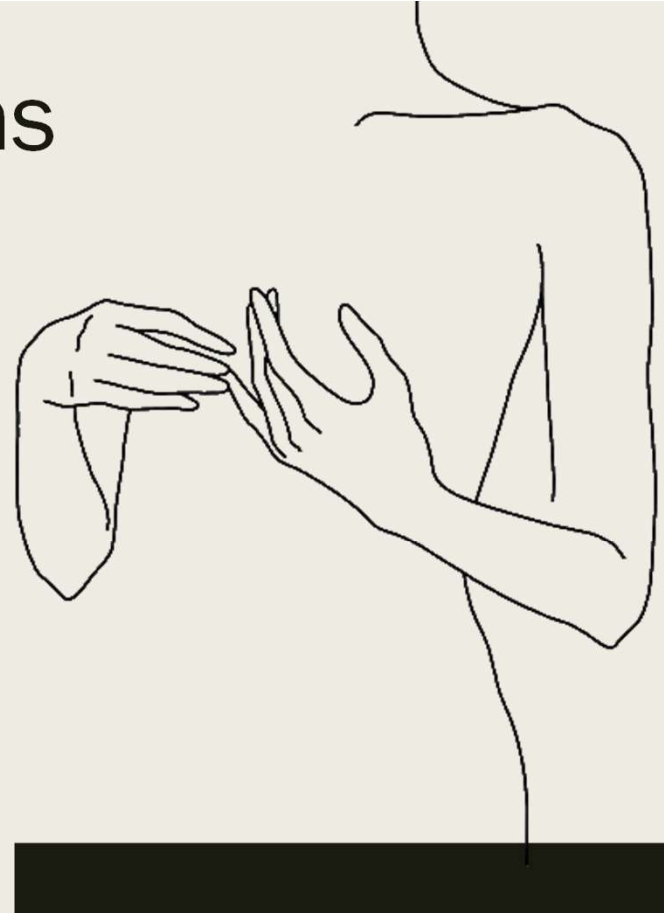


Mind Map



Strengths

- Unique imagery
- Interesting ideas
- Empathetic
- Understanding of devices
- Line breaks
- Beginning to get a handle on “sound”



Weaknesses

- Not a clear enough road map
- Story needs more coherence
- Overarching theme is lacking
- Need to work on word choice for musicality of stanzas
- Metaphors might be too convoluted



INTENTION

I hope with the piece I create I can make a connection on a “deeper” level with anyone who may read it to help them truly appreciate that we are all simply human beings. We all have complex individual lives which can wear down on us creating a multitude of mental health issues. If this can be recognized through the empathizing of others’ situations, then I hope that expressing my own life experiences through my work will help to enable others’ to be more understanding of the variety of lives which are existing on this planet. Even if I only achieve this with one reader, I believe it is still a win. One life being changed has the potential to bloom across many others.

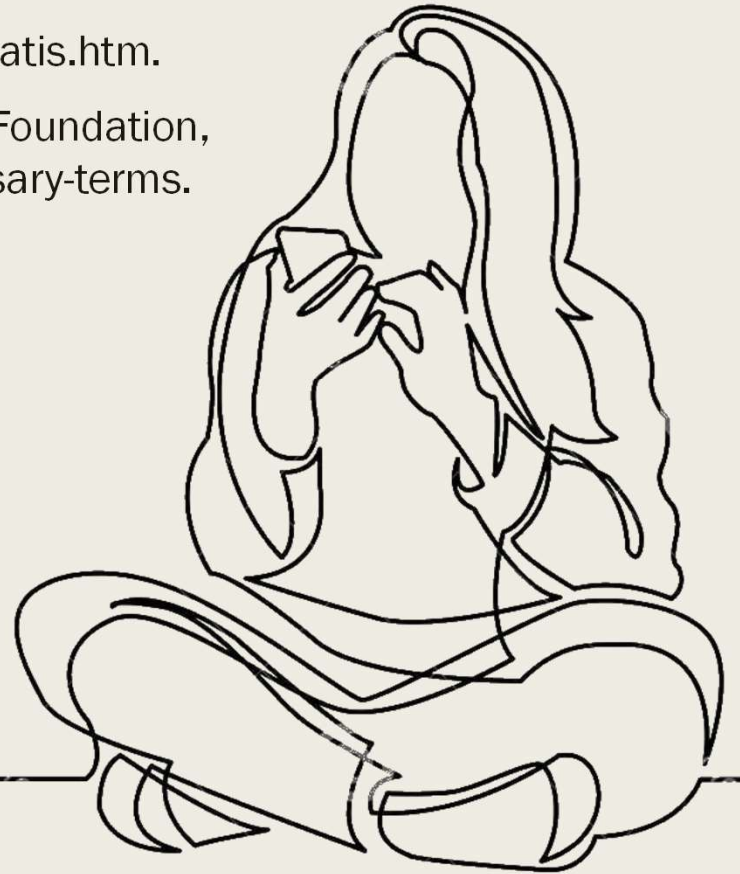


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Notes

The word poetry comes from the Greek word poieo which means I create.

There are many devices and forms used to create poems and poets should also keep in mind the shape of the piece itself.

We should also be mindful on the sounds we create through word, syllable, form, and device choices.

Poetry is often used to communicate more emotional ideas rather than pure statements or stories. There are, however, many forms of poetry including narrative. I would argue even narrative poems tend to have an emotionally driven, or moral driven, background.

The subject of poetry is incredibly broad so there is really no right or wrong way to go about it. This is one of the reasons I chose to do a poetry book as my project.

I also feel it is what I have the most experience in, and is what I personally enjoy doing the most. I like the idea that I can give myself as much space or confinement I want. By writing in either free verse or giving myself constraints to follow, it gives me freedom to not become bored within my own writing as I tend to get bored of things quite easily. It's a flaw I'm working on.

Notes II

I've chosen three broad genres that I'd like my project to be created with. These include lyrical, allegory, and deep image.

Lyrical poetry tends to be focused on the sound and musicality of the piece. It also has a stronger focus on emotions and often times can be quite short. The beginning of each section of my poetry project will have a small poem which will hopefully take the reader into the "present" with Silas, as the rest of the poems will be about her "past". This may change in the future but at the moment this is the idea. I'm planning on having these bits in trochaic to give a dissonance to the piece to try and showcase that her state in the present isn't exactly "normal".

Allegory is basically a very large metaphor, or an extended metaphor, through the entire piece. It often will carry a moral meaning behind it. Pretty much everything in the piece will be figurative. Books like *Animal Farm* by George Orwell or Plato's *Allegory of the Cave* are examples of this. In my project I plan to have the "boat" that Silas is in be a metaphor for her body and most of the experiences she goes through will be written through metaphorical means which could carry more than one meaning depending on how the reader interprets it. The moral I hope to get across by the end is the idea that we can easily see others' bodies and lives simply as objects around us, or NPCs (non playable characters) like in a videogame, but in fact everyone has a complex life with their own problems. We are all going through something terrible at one point or another and I think people tend to forget about this and lose patience and understanding. I think having these two virtues could solve a lot of problems in the world.

The third genre is called "deep image". It is something I came across while looking through definitions on poetry foundation. It's basically a narrative poem with concrete images which hold deep symbolism. I felt it fit what I was trying to do here so I thought I would mention it in case others might also be interested in similar poetry.

Notes III

Distant crows above me hold some fragile
memories of children laughing brightly
while their socks are soaked in puddles rightly.

They sing a long refrain, lost moments in the rain.
Below the brittle moon they slowly croon their tune.

Symbolism:

- ❖ Crows – renewal, death, adaptability, perspective
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Concrete Images:

- ❖ Children playing
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Lyrical:

- ❖ 10 syllables
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Notes IV

Silas Poems

- ❖ Begin with a theme/story
- ❖ Make a list of trochaic words which fit the feeling of the theme/story
- ❖ Write out meat of the poem, ignore line breaks and syllables per line
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- ❖ Count syllables, change words where needed
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- ❖ Tighten up

Notes V

Most poems

- ❖ Have a theme or part in the story in mind
- ❖ Write without thinking (mind puke)
- ❖ Find key moments in mind puke and rewrite, ignore line breaks
- ❖ Scan for abstractions, replace with concrete imagery
- ❖ Check for coherence, rewrite or replace where necessary
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Notes VII

I find my strengths in writing tends to mostly be my imagery. I have been working on unique ideas as well however and I find I'm quite empathic which helps me to connect with others. I've been trying to use this to write outside of my own personal experience, but I don't like coming across as "knowing everything". I also have a beginners knowledge on devices, which gets me through, and my line breaks are often strong. I'm starting to also get a handle on the musicality of the words I choose, but I still have some work to do there as well.

I still need a lot of work on planning and structure such as creating road maps for where things will be going. I also need to find a way to make the story of my project more coherent, but I think this will come with working more on my road map. I'm not particularly good at overarching themes either, so I'm planning on going through some of my pieces once I'm done and making sure things are in line with what my intention for my project is. Although my word choice has gotten better from the past, the musicality definitely still needs work, but I'm hoping I can catch on through editing and practicing writing more. The last problem I've noticed is that my metaphors might be too convoluted, so I'll need to find a way to make them clear enough that the readers don't get frustrated, but not so clear that the idea becomes boring.

Notes VI

This is the mind map we did in class. I won't spend too much time on it since I talked through it a bit on the day of making it, but I tried to basically draw out where I want Silas to travel through her life. I think this will change quite a bit as my project goes on. I'm thinking of having times where she's on top of the ocean and other times where she's underneath the ocean as well, so I'll have to spend some time working through this. This is where my coherence isn't the best and I'll have to decide in what order I want her to experience things and what these different experiences symbolize or what they are allegorical for.

I hope with the piece I create I can make a connection on a "deeper" level with anyone who may read it to help them truly appreciate that we are all simply human beings. We all have complex individual lives which can wear down on us creating a multitude of mental health issues. If this can be recognized through the empathizing of others' situations, then I hope that expressing my own life experiences through my work will help to enable others' to be more understanding of the variety of lives which are existing on this planet. Even if I only achieve this with one reader, I believe it is still a win. One life being changed has the potential to bloom across many others.