



**Autobiographical Poetry:** Consider the following questions to help you construct a poem about yourself. This format offers a bit more wiggle room for you to experiment with line length as well as sound because you will construct your sentences yourself and arrange them into whatever shape and size you want your poem to be. I have included a sample of one of these poems so you can see how this format can become a poem.

1. When were you born? (not necessarily a year, but a special era, a time when something special was going on..)
2. Describe your parents...survivors of \_\_\_\_\_, fighters for (or against) \_\_\_\_\_, believers in \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did you get your name?
4. What did a family member (mother, grandfather, sibling, etc.) teach you?
5. What did another person tell or teach you?
6. What did you learn from yet another person or event?
7. When you leave school this year (or PKY later, or home, or what ever milestone you wish to use) what do you expect to accomplish or to become?
8. Describe yourself with the two stems...I am a \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_
9. What or where would an imaginative friend say you came from?
10. What are two things you long for or crave? (Diction note: You long for something but simply crave, not crave for)

**Beatriz Badikian**

i was born in the year of the cat  
 my parents are immigrants  
 a life made of beginnings  
 Dante\* gave me my name  
 by way of my father  
 my father told me all about ancient lands  
 and lost civilizations  
 my mother dressed me in red  
 (my hair was too straight for her)  
 my father told me I would be a speaker...a leader...a fighter  
 i left home by way of divorce  
 i am an island  
 a collector of postcards  
 matches  
 people  
 Sandra says i have metamorphized from seagulls  
 i have a craving for  
 wide open spaces  
 and poems that don't rhyme



\*Dante is an Italian poet who wrote *The Divine Comedy* in which a beautiful young woman named Beatrice leads the hero to Heaven

I can make available interesting bio-poem samples from previous years to inspire you. Experiment with as many of these formats as you wish, **Use the poetry guide sheets** as you edit your work, and please ask any questions you have or come by Mrs. Harrell's office next door to look at the notebook of samples.