



A Moment Frozen in Time

Back in the day before digital cameras became the norm, we had an expression called a Kodak moment. Does anyone remember that or have an idea what it might mean? In this assignment, which is part of *Wanna Piece of Me*, we are building on what we have learned about specific and concrete details and strong verbs. What you are doing is taking a photo in your mind and developing (or downloading) it with words. Walt Whitman, a ground-breaking American poet did this in his poem, "When I Heard the Learned Astronomer" which I will read to you. Many Imagist poets excel in this format as well.

Think of, recall, or even imagine a moment in time which absolutely must be photographed. Then write the photograph so we can see it. Here is one I wrote years ago when I looked out the window and saw my eight-year-old son practicing his batting. He is twenty-four now and pursued basketball rather than baseball, but whenever I read this, my throat catches and I practically cry remembering. I hope you can picture this scene even if you are not a mom 😊 As always, I'm open to any suggestions for editing. I'll also read a couple of student samples for you.

A Poem for Grant

Breath sucked in
lean little body pulled taut and poised a bat.

His blue eyes sparkle expectantly
darting up toward imaginary stands
then down to the circle of worn out grass
at his feet.

Focusing on his own little muscles,
a shy-secure grin flickers
then instantly turns cocky
mimicking super stars nodding to fans.

Front tooth still missing
he chews his tongue in readiness.

Sweat rivulets
along his mud-flushed cheeks
and neck
and off his eyebrow.

Did Babe Ruth's mother ever see such posturing?

Did she ever hold her breath for love?