

Sports, Art, Music, Dance... and Me

For this piece of you, plan a **poem of address** or an **abstract collage** in the style of Romare Bearden, an African-American artist known for his collages in the 60s (You could make yours with some words added, perhaps). You could of course, just write a **creative poem of your own using your favorite style and format**. Here are some brief guides that will help:

1. A poem of address is a poem that is written to somebody or to something (yours will be a thing). Although the reader will learn something about the subject of the poem (a sport, dance, art, music, etc) **the poem is not a description of the thing**. Rather, it is a piece that **shows how you feel about the subject—what it means to you**.
2. I will read a couple poems of address for you in class, "Grandmother" by Kate Manthos, "Homework" by Jack Prelutsky to get the idea not of the subject matter, but of ways that these poems of address can be written.
3. If we are in the mood, I'll share a Mason Williams poem which is almost a poem of address. It's called "Them Lunch Toters." I may also share one of the poems for two voices which is a poem of address, "The Moth's Serenade." (or I'll show you the brief DVD, *Joyful Noise*) You may even decide to model on one of those, especially if you want to include more than one subject (sports and dance, music and art, etc) in your poem. Feel free to do so. Have fun presenting something(s) you love.
4. I will read a couple of "regular" poems about music too: "The Girl Who Makes the Cymbals Bang" by X J Kennedy, "Way Down in the Music" by Eloise Greenfield, and "Jazz Fantasia" by Carl Sandburg. I'm sure I'll be collecting and sharing cool poems about sports, art, and dance as well, but I'm not going to list them all here because I'll just tend to go overboard. I want to inspire you to write your own pieces, not drift into spending hours reading poetry to you (which I could so easily do). I know the Billy Collins Poetry 180 link on the harrellland website (homepage poetry section) contains some nice pieces.
5. An abstract collage (the Bearden model) uses images of a figure engaged in the sport, dance, music, or art activity. The colors and contours are important here. Develop a center of interest. Use repeated shapes, improvise as you work. Abstract art does not represent things exactly as they appear; things are usually distorted or changed somehow. Please visit Romare Bearden website for inspiration. I have tons of magazines in the room from which you can cut or tear. (Use only the ones under the sink, please, and clean up after yourselves.)