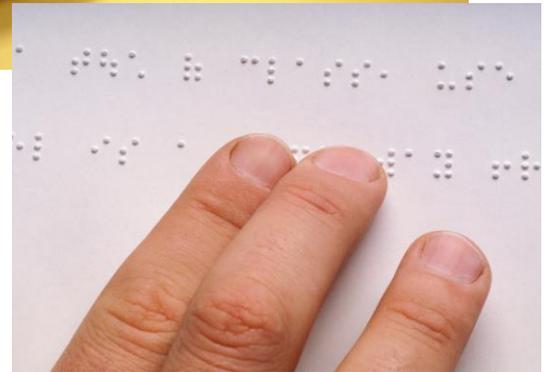
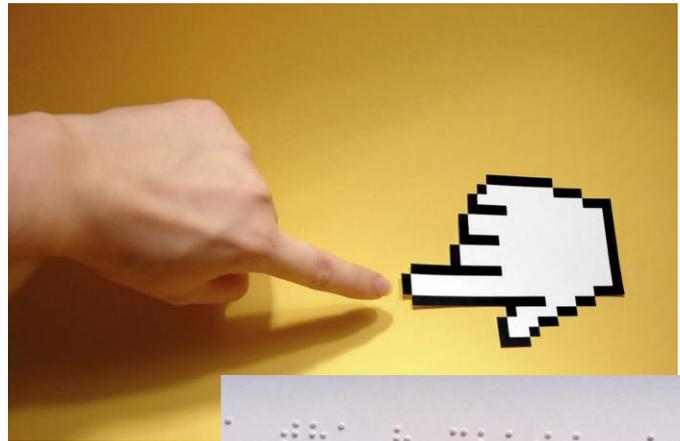


GETTING A FEEL FOR IT

Mimi's Fingers

I am blind. All that I can see
My enchanted fingers bring to me,
As if all sight were mingled with all touch
I do not mind not seeing very much
In Braille I read the words these fingers trace,
And with them come to know your smile, your face,
Your buckled shoes, the silk thread of your hair,
The fabric of each suit and dress you wear;
All shapes, all sizes, how long how far, how high,
How round a bowl, how gently curved the sky,
How pointed the far tip-top of a hill,
The narrow table of a window sill.
I know a snowflake as a melting star,
The sticky-thick of honey and of tar.
Color alone my fingers cannot do.
Could you, could you, tell me about blue?



We are going to think about **the sense of touch** and explore the special “touches” it gives to our writing. But first, let’s get in touch with this poem. It’s about touch for sure, but what else is it about? **What is the tone**—is it contentment or sadness or something else? What specific lines give you support? On the back of this page, please do a brief piece of **reflective writing about what this poem means to you and how it makes you feel**. Then do another brief piece of reflective writing (just a **paragraph, perhaps, with a topic sentence**) **about which sense is most important to you**. In other words, which sense would you most hate to lose? Write for about **ten minutes** then **share with your table groups** and then **share back to me what you discovered**, and I’ll share some information with you.

Reflective writing may come easy for you; now you may be wondering **how to incorporate touch into your poetry**. Here are some poems that will inspire you. As always, note any you want to copy later for your Antholio.

1. Summer by Rebecca Smith, a student
2. Waiting for the Wind by Karen Markman, a student
3. I Have New Garden Gloves by Arnold Adoff and Lisa Desimini
4. On This Coldest Day... by Adoff
5. Happy On the Beach...by Adoff, from *Touch the Poem*

What should you write about? Remember your **Universe of Language**? Your touch words were the most difficult for you to come up with, but you did it. Look at the words you wrote there and choose one or more of those to inspire you. Imagine the feel...use details, figurative language, synesthesia...whatever works best to say what you want us to feel.