The Joy of Poetry: Read, Explore, Create

Facilitated by Susannah Simpson, Thursdays 11:00am

Course Description: Explore fun and creative poetry styles while learning new ways to express yourself through words. Each week includes discussion, examples, and in class writing activities.
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

Week 1: Ekphrastic Poems Ekphrastic poems are inspired by works of art such as paintings, photographs, or sculptures. We will discover how images can spark stories, emotions, and surprising poetic ideas.

- Use visual art as inspiration for writing.
- Practice noticing details and turn them into vivid language.
- Use a piece of art and write a poem inspired by it.

Week 2: Concrete Poems Concrete poems are poems you can see as well as read. We will play with shapes, spacing, and design to make words come alive on the page.

- Explore how appearance adds meaning.
- Experiment with creative layouts and shapes.
- Create a poem arranged in a shape that matches its subject.

Week 3: Prose Poems Prose poems look like paragraphs but sound like poetry. We will blend storytelling, imagery, and emotion while letting go of traditional line breaks.

- Experiment with a different poetic structure.
- Create strong imagery and rhythm within a paragraph.
- Write a prose poem about a memory, place, or meaningful moment.

Week 4: Odes An ode is a poem of appreciation or celebration. We will discover how ordinary people, objects, and experiences can become extraordinary subjects for poetry.

- Practice writing with gratitude and wonder.
- Use descriptive details to honor a chosen subject.
- Write an ode celebrating something you love, admire, or appreciate.

Week 5: Aubade Poems Aubades celebrate the arrival of morning and a new day. We will write about sunrises, fresh starts, transitions, and hopeful beginnings.

- Use imagery to capture dawn.
- Explore themes of change and renewal.
- Write a poem inspired by a morning experience or new beginning.

Week 6: Nocturne Poems Nocturne poems capture the mood, mystery, and beauty of nighttime. We will write about dreams, stars, memories, quiet moments, and the world after dark.

- Use sensory details to create atmosphere.
- Explore emotions connected to nighttime experiences.
- Write a poem inspired by a night memory, dream, or evening observation.

THE MANDEL JCC ACADEMY OF JEWISH Lifelong Learning BOYNTON BEACH

WELLINGTON BAY