

Creative Writing

Course Description: Think. Write. Think More. Write More. Rethink. Rewrite. Have Fun. Work Hard. Repeat.

Target Age: 6th & 7th

Course Outline:

Week 1 Cliche's, Making Connections & Comparisons

Week 2 Sensory Details

Week 3 Showing vs. Telling, Wonderful Words & Wimpy Words

Week 4 The Importance of Image

Week 5 Character and Conflict

Week 6 Story Angle and Point of View

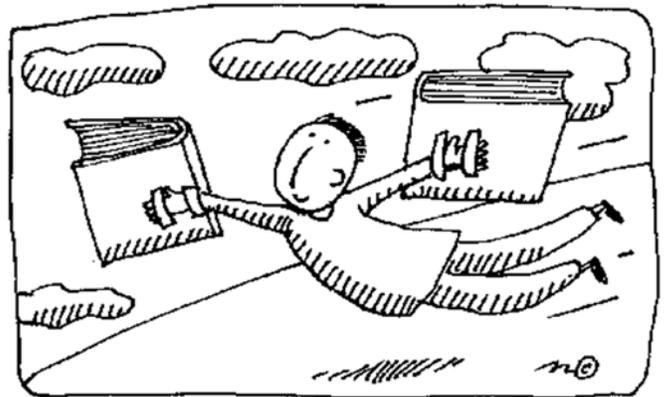
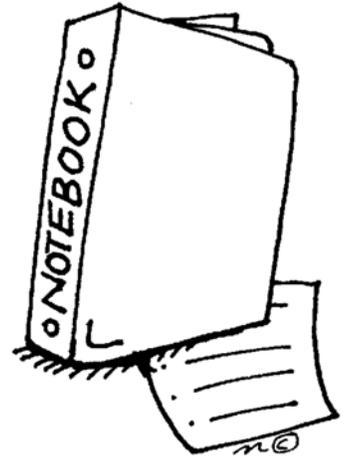
Week 7 Fractured Fairy Tales

Week 8 Vision and Revision

Week 9 Coffee Shop Readings

Supplies: 3-ring binder (2 inches) with paper and dividers

Cost: None. Student will be required to bring in treats for the coffee shop readings on the final day.



A cliché
is what we all say
when we're too lazy
to find another way

and so we say

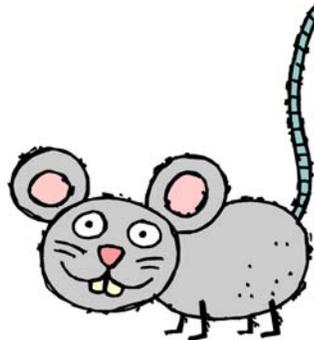
warm as toast,
quiet as a mouse,
slow as molasses,
quick as a wink.



Think,
Is toast the warmest thing you know?
Think again, it might not be so.
Think again, it might even be snow!
Soft as lamb's wool, fleecy snow,
a lacy shawl of new-fallen snow.



Listen to that mouse go
scuttling and clawing,
nibbling and pawing.
A mouse can speak
if only a squeak.

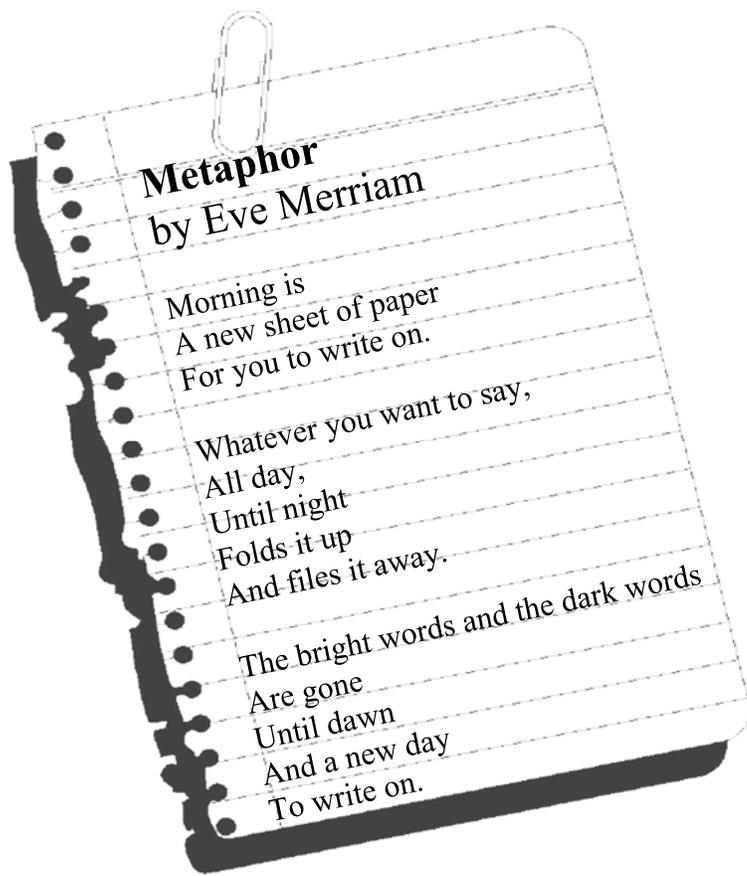


Is a mouse the quietest thing you know?
Think again, it might not be so.
Think again, it might be a shadow.
Quiet as a shadow,
quiet as growing grass,
quiet as a pillow,
or a looking glass

Slow as molasses,
quick as a wink.
Before you say so,
take time to think.



-Eve Merriam



A LOAF OF POETRY

you mix
the dough
of experience
with
the yeast
of inspiration
and knead it well
with love
and pound it
with all your might
and then
leave it
until
it puffs out big
with its own inner force
and then
knead it again

and
shape it
into a round form
and bake it
in the oven
of your heart



Words

We are spendthrifts with words,
We squander them,
Toss them like pennies in the air—
Arrogant words,
Angry words,
Cruel words,
Comradely words,
Shy words tiptoeing from mouth to ear.

But the slow wrought words of love.
And the thunderous words of heart break—
these we hoard.

~Pauli Murray

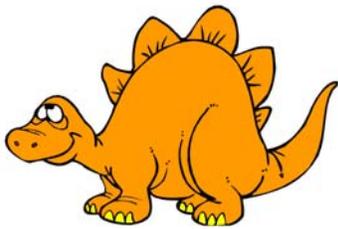
— Naoshi Koriyama



Metaphor Poems

The Toaster

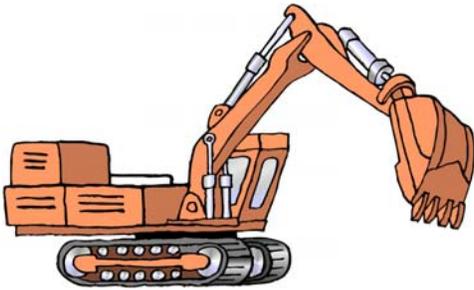
A silver-scaled Dragon with jaws flaming red
Sits at my elbow and toasts my bread.
I hand him fat slices, and then, one by one,
He hands them back when he sees they are done.



Steam Shovel

by Charles Malam

The dinosaurs are not all dead.
I saw one raise its iron head
To watch me walking down the road
Beyond our house today.
Its jaws were dripping with a load
Of earth and grass that it had cropped.
It must have heard me where I stopped,
Snorted white steam my way,
And stretched its long neck out to see me,
And chewed, and grinned quite amiably.

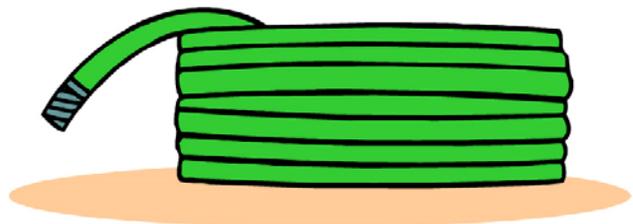
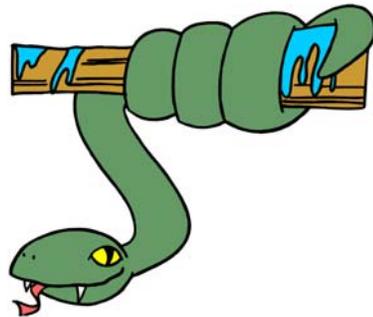


The Garden Hose

In the grey evening
I see a long green serpent
With its tail in the dahlias

It lies in loops across the grass
And drinks softly at the faucet.
I can hear it swallow.

-Beatrice Janosco



Clichés

Avoid Them Like the Plague

Clear as

Down in the

Crying like a

Ants in your

All bent out of

Cute as a

Raining

Don't cry over

As quick as a

Ducks in a



Word Bank

spilled milk, baby, mud, row, cats and dogs, shape, dumps,
button, pants, fox

Creative Writing Week One

Day One

1. Copy one quote into the copywork section of your notebook.
2. Read the cliché poem to your mom or dad. Discuss it.
3. Write new (fresh and original) comparisons for the following:
 - warm as toast
 - quiet as a mouse
 - slow as molasses
 - quick as a wink

Day Two

1. Copy one quote into the copywork section of your notebook.
2. Read the poem "Words" again. Make a chart of different kinds of words and list many examples under each category. You can use the categories from the poem (arrogant, angry, cruel, comradely, etc.), or you can think of your own.
3. Re-read "A Loaf of Poetry" and write your own recipe for something (anything you want!). You can write it as a poem or paragraph.

Day Three

1. Copy one quote into the copywork section of your notebook.
2. Read the "Metaphor Poems" page. Study it. **Read it again.**
3. Go outside (even if it's raining, you won't die). Find something to write about. Write a metaphor that describes the object comparing it to something else (in the same manner that "The Garden Hose" was written). Use the name of the object as your title. You will read your poem in class and your classmates will try to guess what your poem is about.

Copywork Quotes

The poet has a new thought: he has a whole new experience to unfold . . . ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimension. ~Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try! ~Dr. Seuss

Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing. ~Ben Franklin

Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart. ~ William Wordsworth

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug. ~ Mark Twain

Write your first draft with your heart. Re-write with your head.

One must be drenched in words, literally soaked in them, to have the right ones form themselves into the proper pattern at the right moment. ~ Hart Crane

Like most—maybe all—writers, I learned to write by writing and by reading books. ~ Francine Prose

Words - so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them. ~Nathaniel Hawthorne

When you are describing,
A shape, or sound, or tint;
Don't state the matter plainly,
But put it in a hint;
And learn to look at all things,
With a sort of mental squint.
~Lewis Carroll