Poetry Stations: What did we learn?

Templates

Advantages
- Templates are easy—all you have to do is fill in the blanks!
- Templates give you a starting point.

Disadvantages
- Templates limit you in terms of subject, length, and the words you choose.
- Templates limit your creativity.

Magnetic Poetry

1. What are your magnetic poems about? Did you choose a subject before you began the poem or did your subject become clear as you wrote it?
   - Magnetic poetry is random—you try to make your poem make as much sense as possible with the words you have.
   - Sometimes you start with an idea and this guides the words you look for or choose.
   - Sometimes you start with words and the subject becomes clear as you write.

2. How was writing magnetic poetry different from how we usually write poetry? Was it easier or more difficult? Why?
   - When we normally write poetry the task is to create. In the case of magnetic poetry, the task seemed to be making sense.
   - Magnets limit you in many ways—it is difficult to concentrate on a subject or meaning when you only have limited words.
   - Magnets can help jump your creativity and give you ideas.
   - Magnets make the poem easier to visualize.

Layout

Write a paragraph about your new layout. Explain the choices you made and the purpose they serve.
- Sometimes we bold important words. In this case, changing the layout helps you figure out what the poem is about; in other words, the subject.
- Sometimes we choose a font that reflects the mood of the poem or the style of writing. In other words, we choose a poem that echoes the tone of the poem.
- Sometimes we use color, font or size to echo the feeling of specific words. In other words, we use color, font and font size to emphasize diction.

Nonliterary Prose

1. Why did you choose the article you did? Did knowing that you would have to transform the article into poetry effect your selection? How? What qualities did you look for in an article?
   - We looked for articles that were short—because poetry is usually shorter than prose, it was important that the article not be too long.
   - Mentions poetry
We looked for articles that were interesting — no one wants to read or write a boring poem!
- We looked for articles that were descriptive and used colorful words and phrases. In other words, we looked for article with diction that made it easy to adapt to poetry.
- We looked for articles that are unique — we wanted to create poems that had never been created before.
- We looked for poems that had a clear and meaningful tone; for example, tragic, funny or lighthearted. We looked for the feeling we wanted to convey in our poetry.

2. What details did you omit and include and why? Give at least one example of each and explain why.
- We left out factual information and boring details.
- We kept in key phrases.

3. How is your poem similar to and different from the article? Did you intentionally create these similarities and differences?
- Poems look different than articles. They are in verse — not blocked text.
- Poems capture the emotion of a situation whereas articles concentrate on facts.
- It is less important to employ standard grammar and organization in poems.

**Fixed Forms**

1. What was difficult about writing in a fixed form?
   - The rules regarding rhyming and syllables limited you and made it more difficult to say what you wanted to say.
   - Having so many rules to follow limited your creativity.
2. How did you decide which fixed forms to use? Did your choice have anything to do with your subject?
   - We looked for forms that were unique — we wanted to write in a way we had never seen or tried before.
   - We looked for forms that were familiar — we wanted to use a form with which we already had experience.
   - We looked for something that was easy — usually we thought the shortest were the easiest.
3. Was it easier to write about your subject in one fixed form or the other? What made it easier or more difficult?
   - The more restrictions there were, the more difficult the form was to use. For example, it was more difficult to use the ones with a rhyme scheme and a syllable count than the ones with just a syllable count. At first glance, haiku and than-bauk seem fairly similar, but than-bauk turns out to be much harder to write because of the complicated rhyme scheme.
4. How are your poem similar to or different from each other?
   - Even if you use almost the same words, the poems “flow” differently.
5. What can you conclude about the relationship between subject and form?
   - Subject and form need to compliment one another — otherwise the poem won’t flow well.