

Unfamiliar Genre Project:
The Sestina

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4th Hour Composition

Final Reflection

Reading Reflection:

After reading many sestinas, I realized that reading is understanding. I chose a sestina because I knew it was going to be hard to write. In a sestina, you have to repeat the same set of six words seven times in a different order. When I was reading my samples, I thought one read through would be sufficient, but it wasn't. I did not understand what the poem was about or the author's usage of the end words. After three or four read-through's, I understood how the author manipulated the meaning of end words.

Writing Reflection:

In many other sestinas, the author uses the end words in many different ways. However, in my sestina, I used the end words the same way [as a noun or adjective] but described the word differently or altered what the word's function was to that particular stanza. I have improved my writing ability by being able to think up of different ways of describing words.

Research Reflection:

I learned that studying genres can be fun, given that you are studying a genre that interests you. I enjoy challenges and writing a sestina sure was a challenge. Finding sestina samples was much easier than I thought it would be because when I first found out that a sestina is one of the most challenging genres of poetry to write, I thought "that means that there are not going to be many samples of sestinas." But I was wrong. There are many samples online; you just have to know where to look. While researching, I decided to see if there are any links to other sestinas on the sites I found from Google. This technique helped me find samples that were "hiding" from Google Search.

Metacognition:

This project has sharpened my comprehension abilities. Like I wrote about above in my reading reflection, I now comprehend that reading is understanding. Now I read actively; I try to figure out what the passage is trying to tell me. This project has also increased my multitasking skills. As I was analyzing the samples, I was also thinking about different ways I could use the end words of my poem. Then after reading a sample, I would try to write part of my sestina.

The Bow

A bow is drawn across strings
Creating a bright tone
That resonates across the room.
The violinist draws the bow
Yet again, changing the nature of his sound
To the mood of the piece he plays.

He plays
A sad piece, one which uses the strings
To emulate a particular sound,
Which produces a gloomy tone,
But putting not only pressure, but emotion within his bow.
In return, a sad and dark chord echoes across the room.

As he bows, he thinks "Fill the room
With sound, play
With more intensity in the bow,
Try to resonate the strings
More, and create a darker tone,
And increase the emotions made by the sound."

However, his sound
Did not fill the room,
He did not get the tone
He needed. He plays
Again, drawing across the strings
With more intensity in the bow.

The response from his bow
Was a scratchy sound,
Which destroyed any harmonics resonated created by the strings.
The sound did not echo across the room.
He was frustrated that he could not play
With the correct tone.

He clears his mind, not even thinking about tone,
Takes a deep breath, and draws his bow
Once more. He plays.
The sound
Reverberates across the room
And back to his strings.

The violinist is content with the sound his strings
Produced. He plays again, creating the same tone
That filled the room a few seconds ago. Enjoying the sound, he again draws his bow.

Research Journal

12/1

Today, I thought I'd ~~write~~ start my sestna, but I realized that I ~~couldn't~~ didn't read enough. So I grabbed the book ~~with~~ about Poetry and I read the sestnas in there. ~~There was~~ ~~it also~~ By reading this, I ~~real~~ realized that I would need to find some words that will work for multiple repetitions and fit well together.

12/04

I feel better about writing this poem now. I think it's because I read some examples today for inspiration. But I still have to choose a topic to write about, and then choose my words. Today, I printed a little guide on writing these, so I plan on following that guide.

12/05

Today, I had a conference with Ms. Andrew. It was rather constructive because we basically thought of many words that can be used as the end words in my sestna. It gives me hope.

12/06

I choose the words I will use, well want that I could use. I also read some more sentences to see how the words are used, tomorrow, I'll start to draft.

12/07

I thought I would get started with my draft, but the "mini" lesson took all class, thus I got NOTHING done. I'm worried that I won't have enough class time to finish, so tomorrow I will work hard to write my draft.

12/08

I got my first two stanzas finished today, It wasn't as hard as I thought it was to write a sentence. But it will need revising.

12/14

~~But~~ I decided to trash the idea of
writing about running. Instead, I'm going
to write about ^{work} ~~more~~. I found it much easier
to write about more/work. Thought flow
much easier to paper. ~~Also~~ I've written
5 stanzas so far and shall finish and continue
~~with~~ my draft,