**Three ‘Self’ Poems**

These three poems are a part of a larger project so it is important to complete them all.

**Poem #1 - Auto-Bio Poem Pattern**

Line 1: Your first name only

Line 2: Four adjectives that describe you

Line 3: Son/Daughter of……

Line 4: Lover of (name three things – phrases work best)

Line 5: Who feels (name three)

In the following sections, the writer may name as many as they like

Line 6: Who finds happiness in….

Line 7: Who needs….

Line 8: Who gives….

Line 9: Who fears…

Line 10: Who would like to see…

Line 11: Who enjoys…

Line 12: Resident of (city or neighbourhood)

Line 13: Your last name only

**Poem #2 – Writing an “I used to be….” Poem**

Step 1: For the first line of your poem, write down either “I used to be” or “I once was”

Step 2: For the next line, write down the name of an object that would represent you when you were younger

Step 3: Describe (in a line or two) something about the object you just named that made it like you

Step 4: For the next line, write down either “But now I am” or simply “Now I am”

Step 5: For the next line, write down the name of the object that you chose to represent you now

Step 6: In a line or two, describe something about this object that makes it seem like you.

Examples:

I used to be

A caterpillar,

Inching along.

But now I am

A butterfly,

Floating free.

Once I was

An empty notebook.

Waiting…

For a pen,

A poet

To come by.

Now I am

A heap of crumpled notes

Waiting for

The janitor.

**Poem #3 – The Animal In Me**

Think carefully about the animal that lives inside you - - the one that stands for a part of your character or personality you don’t usually show here in the school. Be very honest. Remember we’re all sneaky sometimes, as well as loud, or shy, or quiet. Don’t be surprised if the noisiest person in the class turns out to have a mouse in them that wants to site beneath a rock and pull leaves and grass around them and read. Don’t be surprised if the quietest person in class has a raging bear inside their heart that wants to leap out and tear down walls and growl at people who bother them.

Suggested pattern:

Describe There is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_in me

Yourself with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ like\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fins, fur, feathers description

and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sounds hisses, roars description

It \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How you move. wiggles, creeps description

What part of your It lives in my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Body does it live in? and makes me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I wish \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Or

possible It makes me want to \_\_\_\_\_\_

endings Or

It makes me feel like \_\_\_\_\_\_

Examples:

**The Animal in Me**

Outside I’m a mouse and a hider

but inside,

I’m a storm ready to unleash my

power upon my enemies.

I’m also a cat,

able to climb

almost

anything sturdy

enough. The

cat in me

is a quick thinker

with fast reflexes.

I live at the

bottom of

the barrel

a step lower

than everyone else.

I’m an outsider,

different from the rest.

All I wish

is that I could get out of the barrel.

**Raging Boar**

There is a wild boar in me

with eyes of fire, fur and wind,

raging strength and a heart for

the unexpected.

It grunts like a mad man.

It gallops like a wild mustang.

It lives in my heart

**Swan’s Song**

There is a swan in me. It lives in

my brain and comes out to swim in my

eyes, but it only comes out when it feels

like it. It has feathers as white as a cloud to

match the shimmering silver lake. It has

a low hum that no one can hear except

me. I wish it could stay out and

swim all day in my sky blue eyes.

For Monday:

1. You must complete all three self-poems.
2. Choose your favourite poem.
3. Find a visual representation (a drawing, a picture, or an object) that represents the poem.
4. Write at least three sentences explaining the connection between the poem and representation.
5. Present this poem, representation, and explanation to your class on Monday.