

SONIC EXERCISE

Making sound the prime organizing principle, arrange the following words into a pattern while adhering to these guidelines:

- a. You must use only these words, though you may repeat them, and you must use the words exactly as they are (for example, no changes for tense or number).
- b. Punctuate (or don't punctuate) as you see fit.
- c. Use as many of the words as you can.
- d. Don't worry about making logical or grammatical sense.
- e. Make the pattern as pleasurable as possible.

hide, shift, fallen, will, how, where, it, be, eye, I,
roof, dog, hound, or, dead, danger, door, eager,
bright, to, you, sky, sleep, hunt, wind, thicket, body,
are, good, mount, quick, is, treasure, without, all,
for, go, house, in, do, the, when, ride, and, my, what,
know, can, ahead, cloud, lie, an, with, question, horse

ST. FRANCIS AND THE SOW EXERCISE

Write a poem that follows (or plays with) the formula of Galway Kinnell's poem "Saint Francis and the Sow."

You already have the basic idea of the poem: you need a sacred character plus a maligned creature (or thing). Now let's take liberties with the structure and invent a scenario that you can play out. For example:

St. Judas and the Good Samaritan

("When I went out to kill myself, I caught/ a pack of hoodlums beating up a man")

St. Harold and the Purple Crayon

("Harold grabbed his crayon and began to draw halos on everything")

St. Ding-a-ling and the Kazoo

("What do you say to a ding-a-ling/ who plays a kazoo? You say allelu.
You say allelu.")

St. Pigeon and the Stale Bread Crumbs

("The pigeon followed the bread crumbs as if the body/ of Christ dropped just for her")

St. Flannery and the Peacock

("Flannery prayed for tail feathers; from her tailbone they grew")

St. Ohtani and the Groundskeeper

("Ohtani naps underground/ by the mowers and field tarps.
And every day the groundskeeper/ clips a hair from his head")

The character can be historical, an actual saint, a recognizable person, but it also could be completely fictional. It doesn't even have to be a person—it just has to act like one and display some personality.

The important thing is to come up with a striking character and then someone/something for that character to interact with.

GOAL

1. have genuine sympathy for the character and the creature—identify with/humanize/celebrate them
2. feature at least one character that is marginalized or overlooked or maligned

FORM

1. try not to rhyme
2. if you can, make the poem 22 lines long (a mix of short lines and long lines)
3. if possible, make the poem current, a 21st century sensibility
4. if possible, make the poem all one sentence

*Pair up with someone; you will serve as consultants to one another.