

The World is Not a Pleasant Place to Be poem

Purposes

- to walk in the shoes of a poet
- to draft an “original” poem
- to identify numbers of stanzas
- to apply knowledge of parts of speech
- to study the structure and patterns of a poem
- to apply analogies

Procedures

Read “The World is Not a Pleasant Place to Be” by Nikki Giovanni (p.142)

Identify the components/pattern of the poem (see below)

Select a topic for your poem.

choose a **subject** (a place that is being described)

choose **things to compare** (sets of things that are related)

discuss analogies

(world w/o friends as rivers w/ only streams)

(world w/o friends as oceans w/o clouds)

Giovanni’s poem is about people or things needing each other

note: this poem has an intro, 2 “body” stanzas, and a conclusion

Draft a poem in this style.

Be sure to credit yourself AND the original poet!

Poem’s structure:

the <u>world</u> is not a <u>pleasant</u> place	(noun 1: place), (adjective 1)
to be without	
<u>someone</u> to <u>hold</u> and be <u>held</u> by	(noun 2), (verb), (past tense of Vb), (adv)
a <u>river</u> would <u>stop</u>	(noun 3), (verb)
its <u>flow</u> if only	(N)
a <u>stream</u> were there	(N: related to N3 like a river to a stream)
to <u>receive</u> it	
an <u>ocean</u> would never <u>laugh</u>	(N4), (verb)
if <u>clouds</u> weren’t there	(N: related to N4 like clouds to an ocean)
to <u>kiss</u> her <u>tears</u>	(verb), her/his/its, (noun: part/piece of N4)
the <u>world</u> is not	(N1)
a <u>pleasant</u> place to be without	(adj 1)
<u>someone</u>	(N2)

Example:

A playground is not a delightful place
to be without
kids to laugh and be laughed at

a slide would never sear
if sunshine weren’t there
to heat its surface

a dodgeball would release
its air if only
a wall were there
to deflect it

the playground is not
a delightful place to be without
kids