

Focus on Poetry in WORKING FOR PEACE

Write a **Moment of Creation** poem crystalizing the moment that one of these peacemakers understood what must be done.

Here is a student example:

Dawn

First the whiteness that makes the black tree blacker:
Then the cool red glow behind the distant hills;
Then the brightness and the pale rays sweeping;
Then the dawn.

Sherry Russell, published in Powell, Brian. (1976) *Their Own Special Shape*. Don Mills: Collier Macmillan.

Write **Rhyme Couplets with Contrast Within Each Line** to express the goals of the movement.

Here is a student example expressing the goals of an Aboriginal Charter of Rights in Australia:

Aboriginal Charter of Rights

We want hope, not racialism;
Brotherhood, not ostracism;
Black advance, not white ascendance;
Make us equals, not dependants;
We need help, not exploitation;
We want freedom, not frustration;
Must we native Old Australians
In our own land rank as aliens?
Banish bans and conquer caste;
Then we'll win our own at last.

Kath Walker, published in Powell, Brian. (1976) *Their Own Special Shape*. Don Mills: Collier Macmillan.

**WRITE A POEM FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ANY OF THE PEACEMAKERS
PORTRAYED IN THIS GALLERY**

Write a poem based on the style of Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*.

Walt Whitman is a famous American poet. His long free verse poem, *Song of Myself*, is part of his book *Leaves of Grass* which was published in 1855.

The tone of *Song of Myself* is open-hearted and boasting. He presents himself as someone who knows great secrets about the world and life and who wants to share them with us. Here is the opening section:

I celebrate myself, and sing myself,
And what I assume you shall assume,
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.

I loafe and invite my soul,
I lean and loafe at my ease observing a spear of summer grass.

My tongue, every atom of my blood, form'd from this soil, this air,
Born here of parents born here from parents the same, and their
parents the same,
I, now thirty-seven years old in perfect health begin,
Hoping to cease not till death.

Creeds and schools in abeyance,
Retiring back a while sufficed at what they are, but never forgotten,
I harbor for good or bad, I permit to speak at every hazard,
Nature without check with original energy.

To follow this model of poetry, imagine that you are one of the peacemakers in this gallery. You know secrets which make you wise. Write a poem in which, in a boasting, generous, and secret-telling kind of way, you offer to share those secrets.

Here are some examples written by students:

What I Know

Come with me to the other side of the moon
I'll tell you where the moon comes from
And where we come from
Where the sky came from
Come with me
This is not a side show, don't be mistaken
I can open the world with my brain, and yours can
do it too. COME WITH ME.

Tracy Lahab, published in Koch, Kenneth. (1974) *Rose Where Did You Get That Red*. New York: Random House.

Come With Me..

Come with me and I will show you a rabbit with no head.
Come with me on a mountain and I'll show you a live skeleton.
Come with me and I'll show you one million nothings.

Lorraine Fedison, published in Koch, Kenneth. (1974) *Rose Where Did You Get That Red*. New York: Random House.

My Secrets Are your Secrets

When I looked at a hole I thought I saw a dead lady.
Come with me, and I'll show you some jewels in a cave.
Come with me, and I'll show you a live animal in the museum.
But be sure to come with me and be sure not to tell anybody.
It's only a secret between you and me.

Lorraine Fedison, published in Koch, Kenneth. (1974) *Rose Where Did You Get That Red*. New York: Random House.

Using this format, share your vision and invite other to join your movement.

Write a **poem inspired by Ulysses**, the legendary Greek hero who is famous for his determination and refusal to accept defeat.

Channel one of the peacemakers in this gallery and write a Ulysses poem from that point of view.

Here are some student examples:

Go on,
Push yourself –
Push yourself to fame:
Walk through cannibal country,
Or just learn how to swim.
Go on.
Push yourself!

P.B., published in Powell, Brian. (1976) *Their Own Special Shape*. Don Mills: Collier Macmillan.

Consider the **contrasts in Ishmael Beah's life** before and after he became a child soldier OR when he was a child soldier and now, when he is living safely.

Here is an example of a student poem using contrasts.

City Kid / Country Kid

A city kid has soul,
Dancing on the dirty steps,
"Kool and the Gang" blaring away,
A city kid has rock and roll.

A county kid has silence,
Trudging through new-fallen snow,
Flakes stinging his face.
A country kid has soul too.

Tim Daly, Putney School, Putney, USA, published in Powell, Brian. (1976) *Their Own Special Shape*. Don Mills: Collier Macmillan Canada, Ltd.