BaRaGaNewz

Transformation Poems

A transformation poem is a poem describing a person becoming a part, tool or product of his or her work. To write a transformation poem, you need an intimate knowledge of the particular work process and the attitudes, responsibilities and language associated with that work.

Step 1: Using a free person or a slave as the subject, brainstorm words to fill the following categories:

Verbs Tools Products or Outcomes

Step 2: Begin creating! Just two hints to remember:

a. Your poem does not have to rhyme. Transformation poems are meant to be written in free verse. (That means no rhyme scheme or regular beat is necessary.)
b. Do not use the words "become," "change" or "transform" anywhere in your poem.

Read some of the samples below for ideas:

The Rabbi

Wrapped in his *tallit*,
the Rabbi
leads his congregation
in prayer and devotion.
Lovingly,
he extends his arms
as he
teaches and advises,
prays and sings.
As his voice --
fringed with wisdom
and emotion --
emanates from the
bimah,
the Rabbi cloaks
the worshippers in faith.

The Doctor

The doctor rushes
all day
to keep up
with his patients
who are ill with diseases
and assorted ailments.

By the end of his
harried day,
he has no patience left.
His feet are sore and
his back aches.

He leaves for home,
feeling sick
of his job.

The Writer

The writer
Searching for ideas and
Reaching for images
Wondering
What is like this
in my life?
The words come
slowly at first and then
in a rush,
tumbling and gushing.
Awake from the dream,
grabbing his
pen and paper
At the midnight hour
Light inside the head,
but outside dark as
INK.