

## Session 4 and 5: Poetic Prose

Reading: “Boys” by Rick Moody, “Fallen Bird,” by Jessica Young

Writing: Write a two-page poetic prose

Thoughts: What is the distinction between poetry and prose? We note that prose tends to give us a story, that we are able to identify what I call ChRIS (Characters, Issues and the Resolution of Issues, and Setting). We expect to find ChRIS in a piece of prose, and we go into reading it with that in mind. When we read a poem, we are often missing a piece or two, and we focus a bit more on the pared-down language. When looking at the readings, consider how ChRIS plays into them, and how language does. When writing your own, strive to write what you might consider a story, but spend time and effort on pushing toward poetic language.

Exercise: Write about a found object—whether a spoon or a photograph, a piece of a toy that broke off, or a rubber band... Pick an ordinary object, very quickly create a very basic background story for it, and spend a nice amount of time carefully articulating this basic background story. This should help you focus less on concocting some wonderful plot, and more on the language that you’re using.

Exercise: Write a prose-like poem. Start by considering the difference between poetic prose and a prose-like poem. This means shifting your focus even more toward the poetic form. The product will likely resemble a poem to the eye, but “feel” more like prose. Remember to work in ChRIS for the prose aspect.

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