Sharing Out Loud—A Workshop Guide

Choose someone to read your poem aloud. Allow your reader time to prepare by reading and rereading a couple of times until they have a basic grasp of the piece and can read with some fluidity. Have the reader share your piece in a small group. Now is your chance to find out if your written cues, including possible sonic patterns, have provided readers with a meaningful sense of this person and the memories associated with him or her. Be sure to have a copy of your piece in front of you so you can mark it as you listen.

Ask your reader and listeners to describe the person or relationship depicted in the poem, as you consider the effect of your choices so far. Ask follow up questions to help your reader/performer be specific about his or her feedback. Asking the reader, "What made you think that?" will reveal much of what your text tells the audience.

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Workshop Feedback Form

Directions Read or listen to the work of another writer. Record your feedback on this form. Be specific and write legibly so the writer may refer to your comments later.

Writer's name:
Title of Work:
The aspect of this piece I remember most vividly is (word, phrase, image)
The aspect I liked the most is (word, phrase, image, form, etc.)
One suggestion I have for the writer is
Reader/Listener Name: