

Exhibit 8

Symbolism

One of the ways that poetry stays in our memory is through its imagery, through its pictures so real and vivid that they take on an extra meaning. That meaning may not be conscious to us, but it imprints itself in our minds and hearts.

In the red wheelbarrow, a famous image from William Carlos Williams's poem of the same name, you will find various symbols from poetry.

Can you match each symbol in the wheelbarrow to its poem title? Take the symbol quiz!



Note about the Museum: This museum came to me in a dream. I am not joking. I dreamed I was running a museum that had poetry machines in it. I'm still working on the machines (anyone know how to fix a vintage candy machine??), but in the meantime, I am putting this thing together the best I can. I could use your help. Spread the word about the museum. Make a donation. Come and visit! Bring people!

**THIS MACHINE
KILLS FASCISTS**

I have a treehouse to equip for poetry kids, a poetry porch, poetry pergola, and about 5 more exhibits to get ready before the museum is complete. I also want to have a shop to sell poetry books and related items. Be a part of my dream!

Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry
6619 S. 4382
(Perkins Road)
Locust Grove OK 74352
Curator: Shaun Perkins

***ROMP
Field Guide***



**Rural Oklahoma
Museum of Poetry**

Poetry for the People

2012 Museum Guide

Guide to Exhibits

Exhibit 1 Marginalia

Ever pick up an old book in a thrift store and find someone's notes written inside it? I can't resist them. In this exhibit, you will see the marginalia from an old literature textbook that I found in a Salvation Army thrift store in Bartlesville. Thank you, Irene Chaffee, for sharing your thoughts with another girl in your English class . . . Now the world can see how your marginalia was actually literature—poetry—itself.

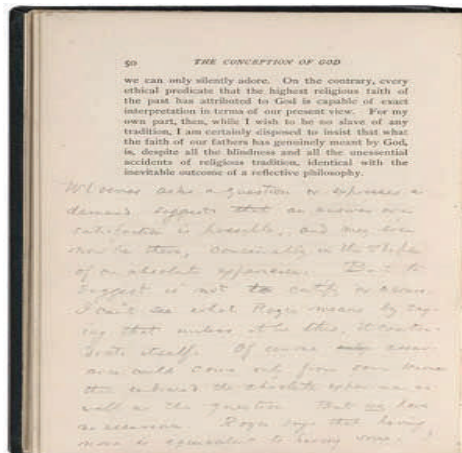


Exhibit 2 Doors

Doors and doorways are significant in our lives. They have rich symbolism in poetry . . . and they have rich meaning in our lives. All kinds of doors. All kinds of meanings. Enjoy these doors and the poetry inspired by and about doors and doorways.



Exhibit 3 Cats

T.S. Eliot made cats famous on Broadway, but in their own minds, cats have and will always be famous. Cats are often depicted most vividly through metaphor. Do you have a comparison for your cat? Pick a cat from the case and write a metaphor to go with it.

Exhibit 4 Craig's List Poetry

Peruse a few pages of Craig's List and find some poetry in the objects and lives of the people buying, selling, bartering, and describing the things of value up for grabs. Pick a whiteboard and read the ad on the back and write your own Craig's List poem for the item on the whiteboard. Hang it up for us all to see.

Exhibit 5 Listen

Poetry must be heard. In fact, poetry must be spoken. Hear and speak some poetry at this desk. Open it up and take out the recorder. Get a blank cassette and record a poem or listen to one someone else has recorded. Choose a poem you know or one from a book on the shelf behind you. Label the cassette when finished.

Exhibit 6 Secret Corner

This corner is for secrets, so I can't tell you what to do here. Make it up yourself. Go ahead.



Exhibit 7 Pocket Poetry

What's in your pocket or purse? Whatever it is, there's a poem in it. Take it out, write about it on a sticky note. Leave it or draw it or explain what it is. Put it in the case waiting for it.

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