

Poetry Lesson

If I Lived in That House

If I lived in that house

A father would read to his daughter

A man would throw a ball to a boy

A woman would softly kiss a child

A family would sit and eat a meal

A knock would go unanswered

A girl would cry in her small room

A boy would stand alone, staring down a hallway

A shiny faucet would drip into a white sink

A bare light would cast a yellow beam onto a porch

A dark silence would fill the black winter night

A rainstorm would blur an open field

And a man would not think too hard

--Joseph McGeshick



Today, we will write a poem that:

-imagines a house where we do not live with our five senses

-incorporates people, animals, objects and the natural world

A. Brainstorm the **people/animals** you will include and the **action** (verb) they will be doing. Try to include the five senses.

Examples: Two sisters – singing; A cat – chasing.

B. Brainstorm **objects** that might be inside of the house in the picture and describe them in some way. Again, remember your five senses.

Examples: a creaky rocking chair; a blue bucket.

C. Brainstorm natural elements that might surround the house.

Examples: A light breeze; the smell of wildfire.

INSTRUCTIONS for your poem

1. Your **first line:** *If I lived in that house.* Each **following line:** *A_____.*

2. Use the page creatively

3. Write in the conditional.

*Ex: The trees **would** sway through the window; A brother **would** stomp the floor*

4. Bring yourself in at the end.

*Ex: **And** a student would take a picture; **And** a young man would never forget*