

English 12

Mr. Monsen

Poetry – Pivot Questionnaire

Directions: Read the following sample Pivot poem. Then read questionnaire and answer all of the questions in your notebook. Lastly, chose one of your answers and use it as an inspiration for a poem.

Sample Poem

It Slipped

By Jillian Murphy

Tattered clothes and
muddy sneakers,
tangled hair and
grass-stained knees,
our youth, a blank canvas
that we surely made a mess
of, now
didn't we?
And we'd bite our tongues
when yelled at
or made fun of,
only letting those three words
linger in our minds,
because soap left
a bitter taste in our mouths.

But innocence is
impermanence,
profanity adding emphasis
to sentences without
leaving an open mouth to clean,
and the words we let
litter our thoughts,
roll off of our tongues like
the morning dew on grass.
Because
it's easier
to say
"Go _____ yourself."
eyes bloodshot, and tearing,
than it is to admit,
to explain
that you hurt me.

Pivot Questionnaire

1. What is your favorite word?
2. What is your least favorite word?
3. What turns you on creatively, spiritually or emotionally?
4. What turns you off?
5. What is your favorite curse word?
6. What sound or noise do you love?
7. What sound or noise do you hate?
8. What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?
9. What profession would you not like to do?
10. If Heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the Pearly Gates?