Critique of Elizabeth Hock‘s “Self Portrait behind a desk”

PRAISE

This poem is a way of showing that no matter what we do, somethings that remain the same and while they do change, the idea is still the same. It is also interesting to see how the poem is self-reflective because of it being based literature and poetry.  
QUESTIONS

I get why there is the part about rhyming, but it feels off just to have it in the one stanza.  
CONCRETE SUGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

I feel that a stanza about moving forward with more than just to be a teacher would be strong as we see from the start of your education career, and it would be interesting to see a possible look into the future.

Critique of Shelbi Owen‘s “Self portrait as the Color Yellow”

PRAISE

This is an interesting poem on how we think that life will remain largely the same, but no matter what, something will change. This lightly explores all of this and the way something as simple as favorite color to something as major as the way people around us will come and go.  
QUESTIONS

Where is more about the people you were around or the music you listen to? There are mentions of them, but not how they have changed  
CONCRETE SUGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

While I do see how this orbits around the color yellow. It is somewhat difficult to cover all the topics mention in such few lines.

Critique of Madeline Oxendine‘s “Self Portrait as a Dying Rose”

PRAISE

This poem is giving me mixed feeling on the purpose, but I believe that it works for its strength as it could be interpreted in one of two ways: a poem about moving forward, or a poem about inevitability. This split meaning is a stronger part of some of the poems read because I believe that somethings should not have such straight forward answer  
QUESTIONS

While I do think that there is something to be said about a poem that can be interpreted, but the parts about the darkness of night and then the saccharine scent lead to a meaning too separate   
CONCRETE SUGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

A little something out about the darkness being more positive or changing “saccharin” to something else since it is a sweetener would help with the continuity of the poem.

Critique of Tyler Willis‘s “Self Portrait As An Obituary”

PRAISE

I enjoy that this poem is about the ideas one will have about their decision and how they change as life confronts them. It is interesting to see the aspiration to be an artist in the world of music, but there are some realities that cannot come true. This is a poem about acceptance and that is showing one’s strength.  
QUESTIONS

Why bring up the existence of Pikachu and Wally?  
CONCRETE SUGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

I feel this poem is strong, but the shortness of the poem and the strange mention of the stuffed animals hinders the true lasting effect of the poem.