A Critique of Alyssa Hubbard’s “Silver Linings”  
PRAISE

I find this poem to be interesting as it is bold and tells a very diverse life with numerous experiences many of us won’t encounter. The poem is well balanced in five-line groups giving it a decent amount of structure.

QUESTIONS

Why bring up the grandmother twice?

CONCRETE SUGESTIONS FOR IMPORVEMENT

I feel that the poem could be strengthened by having the parts about your grandmother and your father being closer to each other so that the significance of each caries more

A Critique of Jonathan Knowles’s “Two Hundred Twenty Steps of Stairs”  
PRAISE

This is an interesting poem in the way it looks at the process of taking the stairs when a lack of sleep and running late puts you on edge. I personal never thought of the true number of stairs there are in the Business Building despite having walked all the way up. The way the steps are counted gives great structure to also show what goes up must also come down.

QUESTIONS

Why end so abruptly? It feels like there is more as you would be trying to not stumble back down.

CONCRETE SUGESTIONS FOR IMPORVEMENT

I do believe that this poem is strong in its execution, but the ending feels like it was cut short because we spend all this time getting up to just have it end with simply going back down.

A Critique of Elizabeth Hock’s “Bettas”  
PRAISE

I used to work in a pet store and selling bettas was always an interesting thing due to the way you can have only one male, but you can have sororities. These different types of bettas are interesting and have been well described to truly show their beauty.

QUESTIONS

Where is the idea of the minimalistic yet effective tank setup?

CONCRETE SUGESTIONS FOR IMPORVEMENT

When I think of bettas, I think of how the tanks are usually simplistic to have the beauty of the fish be the main focus. I feel that would have rounded off the poem when speaking about the aesthetic of the fish in general.

A Critique of Shelbi Owen’s “I was asking for too much”  
PRAISE

This poem radiates an energy of love and the desire for it. The way is shows what you wanted to feel despite never feeling come true must be a relief to put your thoughts done.

QUESTIONS

CONCRETE SUGESTIONS FOR IMPORVEMENT

A Critique of Madeline Oxendine’s “The Beach”  
PRAISE

This is a wonderful view of what a beach looks like and how while it can be a scene of much enjoyment, it is also the first place to get hit by natural events.

QUESTIONS

Why the spacing of “Music playing”

CONCRETE SUGESTIONS FOR IMPORVEMENT

The line about the music playing feels off because everything after is based around when things go wrong. I feel that there just being a break between the two blocks would have structure to show the turning of events.