

Creative Writing Prompts

In your notebook or on a separate sheet of paper, respond to the following creative writing prompts:

1. **CHOOSE YOUR FAVOURITE SONG.** Write an ode or praise or praise poem honoring it.
2. **RULES FOR SLAM.** What are rules you live by?
3. **LIST THE FIVE SENSES. READ THE POEM “NAMES.”** (See following page). What do you know about your name? How is your name a sound? A smell? A touch?
4. **WHAT DO YOU STAY SILENT ABOUT THAT YOU SHOULDN'T?** Xiomara has a lot of secrets she keeps to herself that she only reveals in poetry. What is one thing you wish more people knew about you that you haven't been able to say?
5. **CHOOSE ONE OF XIOMARA'S POEMS IN THE BOOK.** What is the structure of the poem? What poetic devices is she using? (repetition, tone, onomatopoeia, metaphor, praise, haiku, etc.)? Using the same poetic device and/or structure found in the poem you chose write your own poem.
6. **CHOOSE ANY OF MS. GALIANO'S ASSIGNMENTS IN THE BOOK.** Write your own answer in response.

“Names” by Xiomara Bautista

I'm the only one in the family
without a biblical name.
Shit, Xiomara isn't even Dominican.

I know because I Googled it.
It means: One who is ready for war.

And truth be told, that description is about right
because I even tried to come into the world
in a fighting stance: feet first.

Had to be cut out of Mami
after she'd given birth
to my twin brother, Xavier, just fine.
And my name labours out of some people's mouths
in that same awkward and painful way.

Until I have to slowly say:
See-oh-MAH-ruh.
I've learned not to flinch on the first day of school
as teachers get stuck stupid trying to figure it out.

Mami says she thought it was a saint's name,
Gave me this gift of battle and now curses
how well I live up to it.

My parents probably wanted a girl who would sit in the pews
wearing pretty florals and a soft smile.
They got combat boots and a mouth silent.
until it's sharp as an island machete.

Def Poetry Jam

Watch and score the following Def Poetry Jam performances:

Performances	<u> </u> (out of 2.5)	<u> </u> (out of 2.5)	<u> </u> (out of 2.5)	<u> </u> (out of 2.5)	Score (out of 10)
"Like You Know" by Taylor Mali					
Comments:					
"A Letter to The Law" by Common					
Comments:					
"This Type Love" by Shihan					
Comments:					

"Thick Chicks" by Tamara Blue					
Comments:					
"V is for Virgin" by George Watsky					
Comments:					