

## Writing Exercise: A house on fire

This exercise is inspired by Lynda Barry's book Syllabus.

Steps: Take a piece of paper. Good old 8 ½ X 11 letter size will do, or something from a sketchbook, or scribbler. Better to use something larger rather than a very small page.

Divide the page in half – vertically, horizontally, diagonally, it doesn't matter.

Select the drawing implement(s) of your choice – pencil, pen, colored pencils, felts, crayons, whatever. Set a timer for 4 minutes. Start the timer.

On one of the halves of the paper, start drawing a picture of a house on fire. When the timer goes, set it again for one minute and finish the drawing before the timer goes again.

On the other half of the picture, write a story or a poem – but here is the constraint: write the poem or story in the first person point of view, without using the first person pronouns "I" or "we" or any variations of them (me/us, mine/ours). Also: avoid filtering. You can colour your page if you wish

When done, take a picture and post it to Mosaic. Here's an example of how I did this exercise – yes, I used "I", and yes I spent a little more time on it – but not much, maybe 10 minutes to do a draft, another 15 minutes to "revise" it into my sketchbook

