

Lance Akins

CRW: 3310/50704 Introduction to Poetry Writing

Fred Dale

May 20, 2018

My first draft was titled “Captive Mind.” Though it followed the Golden Shovel formula, it was long and rambled pointlessly. This was due to my focus being completely shifted to making the Golden Shovel Work.

The first significant change was eliminating the second stanza of the poem entirely. Then I found the part of the poem I liked, and re-wrote the poem, more focused on the central concept of being captive to one’s own thoughts during social occasions. While the first draft was seemingly about literal captivity and a sinking ship, the second draft made sense.

I then decided that I didn’t like the first stanza of the second draft as well as the second, so I eliminated the first stanza and submitted it as a third draft. I was surprised to hear that the first stanza was actually the stronger one. While more concise, the second stanza was just repeating the first.

For my fourth draft (the version I’m turning in), I re-wrote most of the second stanza. Now it speaks of trying to be one’s “self” and blurting out unimportant facts to fill awkward gaps.

The two stanzas are clearly separate, but work together.