

0.1 Poetry

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Poetry tips

1 **Definition** (Speaker)

The "narrator" of a poem.

- Read first for the literal.
- To figure out the literal pay attention to punctuation.
- The tone/attitude towards the subject is key.

2 **Example** (Clint Smith - Something you should know)

Something You Should Know

is that as a kid, I once worked at a pet store.

I cleaned the cages

of small animals like turtles, hamsters,

rabbits, and hermit crabs.

I watched the hermit crab continue

to grow, molt, shed its skin and scurry across

the bottom of the aquarium to find a new shell.

Which left me afraid for the small creature,

to run around all exposed that way, to have

to live its entire life requiring something else

to feel safe. Perhaps that is when I became afraid

of needing anything beyond myself. Perhaps

that is why, even now, I can want so desperately

to show you all of my skin, but am more afraid

of meeting you, exposed, in open water.

Observations

- Clint Smith analogizes himself to the hermit crab.
- He is scared of showing the person his skin, but it would require him to do something presumably uncomfortable.
- He is scared to go outside of his own boundaries.
- He wants to share his story, but is afraid to do so because he feels uncomfortable doing so.