

Breaking Sentences

As we've seen with some of Elizabeth Acevedo's poetry in *The Poet X* and with William Carlos Williams' poem, "This is Just to Say," poetry can be made up of full, compelling sentences, broken meaningfully into a beautiful poem. Now, it's time to practice. Please read the following three prose passages and break them into poetic lines and stanzas. A couple reminders: choose your line breaks thoughtfully and remember what we talked about ending your lines with 10-cent words, rather than simple, 1-cent words.

Passage one:

I couldn't get up this morning. Even when I did, I felt that part of me was still tucked in. Today had a dark, unhappy vibe hanging over it. My orange juice seemed sour and my cereal seemed sugarless. I don't think I have the strength to go to my grandfather's funeral today, but I know I need to go.

Passage two:

How on earth am I going to get home? Dad said he'd be here. Now he's two hours late, going on three, and I'm sure he's not coming. I shouldn't have even bothered thinking he was going to be here. He never comes to my band concerts.

Passage Three:

I couldn't help but smile as I saw him walk my way. The way he strutted made my heart build with excitement. I wanted to run to him, but I knew I needed to wait until he got near me. As he finally approached, I calmly asked the person walking beside him, hiding my true exhilaration, "Can I pet your dog?"