

Collage Poem Assignment

inspired by
Instructions for a Broken Heart



For this assignment, you will find images from magazines, special paper, online, etc, and cut them out to create a collage that you feel exemplifies an overall theme or topic. For example, you might cut out a series of pictures of trees, flowers, ocean etc and write about “Nature” or a series of buildings where people live and write about “Home.” Or you can get more abstract and cut out a series of images that will show “isolation” or “vision.”

Please use a minimum of **ten** images in your collage.

Then write a poem. With your theme or topic as the title, use your language to connect your poem to the images in your collage. When you write your poem, concentrate on using fresh, specific language to create interesting images that showcase your topic or theme.



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Travel

Whether I cross a wide sea or merely cross a busy street
to smell a newly blooming orchid, my flip-flops flapping
on wet cement, each time I travel, each time I pack
a brown bag with pants and tops, maps, a novel that will grow
another world within a world, each time I cross to someplace new,
my eyes widen, and I sense my cells rearranging themselves.

With each view out a strange window,
a tower there of white stone or a clear glass of water
on a small table next to a blue pool, an empty vase waiting,
with each blink, I emerge new, my cheek damp with a mermaid kiss –
a key to something shadow-spun out beyond mapped etchings
of a round globe, or a flattened world, fingers tracing the arc
of Vikings, of runaways, of warriors or wanderers. Standing there,
next to that window, my soles press into a woven rug worn with other
soles of other travelers. Other souls.

Into love. And loneliness. And what falls between.

This world of travel – a mirror held to my own aging face
lined now, the linen curtain fluttering next to that strange
window with its tower view, or its water view, but always
a view, always something I haven't seen before and perhaps
will never see again.

--Kim Culbertson