

Name _____

Imitation Poem Introduction & Practice

Thomas Lux- "A Poem in Thanks"

Lord Whoever, thank you for this air
I'm about to in- and exhale, this hutch
in the woods, the wood for fire,
the light—both lamp and the natural stuff
of leaf-black fern, and wing.₅
For the piano, the shovel
for ashes, the moth-gnawed
blankets, the stone-cold water
stone-cold: thank you.
Thank you, Lord, coming for ₁₀
to carry me here—where I'll gnash
it out, Lord, where I'll calm
and work, Lord, thank you
for the goddamn birds singing!₁₄

Style Questions: Jot down a short answer for each question.

1. How many lines are there?
2. How long are the lines (short? long?) Count words or syllables.
3. Who is the poem addressed to? How many times is this repeated?
4. What noticeable punctuation mark is used in line 9?
5. What noticeable punctuation mark is used in line 11?
6. Why are there so many commas?
7. Is there a rhyme scheme?
8. What types of things is the author listing?
9. Is the author super happy or sarcastic or both? How do you know?
10. What literary devices are present?

These are the “thinking steps” you should take when you create your imitation poems.

Your Turn

Write a poem that imitates the style and structure of the above poem. Choose someone to address your poem to and then go from there.

Example:

American School System,

Thank you for all this stress

That I can intake,

but I can't expel.

Molding us, into what

society needs us to be,

and for the loads of homework.

For eight hours of back pain,

and 30 minutes of Dog Food.

I thank you for your help,

your help in being successful later,

even though I don't know

how to pay taxes

and other grown up needs,

at least I know how to use semicolons;

what the roman name for Aphrodite is,

how to find the Z-Score,

and that the Mitochondria
is the goddamn Powerhouse of the cell!