

Let's Get Married by José Olivarez

Introduction:

*"let's get married at noon & then again at three-thirty
when the school day lets out & a whole block
of dandelions flower our ceremony."*

- José Olivarez

Directions: Follow the steps provided below:

1. Read "Let's Get Married" by José Olivarez (what's provided of the poem below), paying close attention to the literary elements and techniques Olivarez uses to contribute to the meaning of the work as a whole. There are certain elements of the poem that are omitted, so pay attention to the general style and structure of what's provided for you.
2. Based on your understanding of the poem and its style based on what's given to you, play "Mad Libs" by completing the poem.
 - a. The intent of the exercise is not to be "silly." The point is to put you in the shoes of the poet and make the most deliberate choices possible to create an engaging, effective piece of text. So, in other words, finish the poem in the manner that you think the poet would have.
 - b. Make sure to write IN the brackets interspersed throughout the poem.
3. Choose three of the words/phrases you chose from the piece. Then, in the table provided at the bottom of the page, explain why you chose those words (details, adjectives) and how you think they're effective in contributing to the holistic tone/message of the poem by providing a brief commentary in the right-hand column. Your discussion should consist of no less than two complete sentences.

An example has been provided below:

Poem

Let's Get Married*by José Olivarez*

*for Alison & Nate, on the occasion of their wedding,
& always for Erika*

let's get married on a Tuesday
with a six-piece from Harold's as our witness.
let's get married at noon & then again at three-thirty
when the school day lets out & a whole block
of dandelions flower our ceremony. let's
get married under a full moon & then again
under a new moon, so (all the heavens can shine on us and join us on our journey).
love, one wedding
isn't enough for me. i want to propose
again & again. on a Wednesday because
(). on a Thursday because
we woke up next to each other again. say yes.
say less. i'll be on one knee asking you
to share in the delight of knowing each other.
let's get married because Chicago. because
St. Louis is a city on a map. because your name
(). let's get married because
there are vows we can only make ().
because we don't need () to say i do.
let's get married because it's raining
& that's supposed to be good luck. (), let's get married
in every language we can & can't speak.
under every god. my god, the way you look
at me is a (). because
we get one life. one. say yes. then, say yes

again. let's get married after ()
because underneath every word i write
there is one word i carve into every desk.
one word i tag onto every building on every block
of my heart. marry me: make me (no, not complete),
but ().

Your Contribution

**Copy/paste the entire line/phrase from the poem to provide context to your addition to the text. Choose three examples.*

***If your text is acting wonky when you're typing in the orange box and not allowing you to create a new line, simply go to the end of the line and hit enter until it moves down!**

Explanation

**Your discussion should consist of no less than two complete sentences.*

let's
get married under a full moon & then again
under a new moon, so (all the heavens can shine on us and
join us on our journey)

The poem is full of language that talks about the enormity of their marriage, how it transcends time, space, and reason. I added the "all the heavens" part after the full moon/new moon because it falls in line with the "enormity" bit, as the speaker's desire to get married under different moons underscores the magnitude of the occasion and how the speaker believes all of the universe will be blessed share their excitement.