Catalogue Poem

Pick an emotion from our class brainstorm, or your own idea – this will be the focus of your poem. You will be using this emotion to create your own catalogue poem, like Raymond Carver’s poem “Fear.” Remember, a catalogue poem is a list poem in which the author discusses the fears s/he faces, such as fear of dogs and late night telephone calls, fear of poverty and of the police, and ultimately fear of death.

Try brainstorming first. For example, if you were to choose Happiness, make a list of all the things that make you happy. I am not expecting one word per item, but a brief sentence that gives explanation.

Bad: “Happiness when I play basketball.”

Better: “Happiness is when I steal the ball from the opposite team, beat them to the other end of the court and hit that game-winning lay-up. *Thunk. Swish.*”

Get it?

Poems are expected to:

* Be at least 12 lines in total, plus an appropriate title.
* Begin the same way, with the emotion, until the end is reached.
* Be vivid and descriptive, focusing on that one emotion.
* Include carefully chosen words (go beyond the use of “nice,” “good,” “bad,” “fun,” etc.)
* Have an overall rhythm when being read.
* Have little-to-no grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. errors.