

Models and Patterns

Using a model poem as a pattern is an effective way to introduce students to poetry writing. Betsy Lasch, a 7th grade teacher in New Prague, submitted student poems modeled after a poem published in *Read* magazine. An outline of the structure follows. In using models students should feel free to break out of the pattern for their own purposes, as these students did.

Sea Blue

Don't let me get trapped in one of
Those artificial worlds
Where everything is frozen dinners and
bologna sandwiches
20% rayon and 80% acrylic
Rap
I want to live sea blue, crimson red, sunset
yellow
Cotton and leather
The bright stars in the midnight sky
The river at dawn
Don't let me live small-minded
Not seeing past my front door
Or through rose-colored glasses
I want to float
Drift
Glide
Like a leaf in the fall
Let me hold a rainbow
In the jar near my bed
Let me keep a wild stream
In my jewelry box

Lizette Lybeck

New Prague Middle School, grade 7

Nerds

Please don't let me get trapped
in one of those nerdy worlds,
where everything is calculators,
extra assignments for fun
55% pocket protectors 45% suspenders,
oldies,
I want to live bright blue, vibrant violet,
and
ravin red
satin and silk
the beach at midnight after curfew,
the forest in the fall.
don't let me live mundane,
with my eyes seeing through glasses,
and my nose in a book.
I want to dream,
run,
party,
like a wild child.
Let me catch the stars
and hold them in my hand
let me capture the clouds,
and hold them in my heart

Katelyn M. Kennedy

New Prague Middle School, grade 7

A Poem for All of Us

Please God don't let me get trapped
in one of those perfect worlds
where everything is perfect and plain
99% smartness 1% average
opera

I want to live sterling silver, bright blue, and sun
yellow
graphite and satin
the wind at midnight
the sun at noon
don't let me live spoiled
with my head in school
or on the couch
I want to fly
spin
zoom
like a fighter jet
let me frame the mountains
and hang them in the kitchen
let me keep the tropical rainforest in my shower.

Mike Goldsmith

New Prague Middle School, grade 7

Don't let me get trapped in _____ world
where everything is (two nouns that relate to the first
line)
percentage of "ingredients"
(music that relates to the adjective)
I want to live (three colors)
(two contrasting fabrics)
(image from nature) at (time)
Don't let me live _____
or _____
I want to (3 verbs)
like _____
Let me keep (or synonym)
Let me keep (or synonym)