

# 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*

## Deep Purple, Maroon, Midnight Blue

Please God don't let me get trapped  
in one of those intense worlds  
where everything is jalapeno peppers  
bungee jumping  
red cars  
rap music

I want to live deep purple, maroon, midnight blue  
fertile soil and plain cotton  
the midnight sky  
the Sahara desert at sundown.

Don't let me live rushed  
with many speeding tickets and  
work done out of my car.

I want to be casual  
sleep  
relax  
like a cat.  
Let me sew the sun  
into a square on the quilt that drapes my bed  
Let me keep the white sand from  
Australia's beaches  
in a jar on my shelf.

**Brittany Baer**

*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)