

WRITING | LISTENING | RESPONDING

Writing Together

- We will write together in response to timed prompts/writing exercises.
- If a prompt does not speak to you, you are encouraged to write whatever you want.
- When we are finished, each person is invited to read their new work aloud and respond to each other's writing.

What We Pay Attention to

- We honor the writer and the writing by carefully listening and paying attention to:
 - Bravery, ambition, and risk in the writing;
 - Lively descriptions of characters so that we can see, feel, and hear them
 - Reoccurring or continuous themes
 - Uniqueness of the writer's own voice
 - Vividness and exactness of detail
 - Sharp dialogue
 - Action verbs
 - Literary devices such as alliteration (repetition of sounds), and personification

How We Respond

- To maintain a safe, confidential space in which to write whatever comes to us, we follow certain practices in responding to new writing:
 - We hold the writing of others in confidence;
 - We treat everything as fiction, even when it's not, in order to honor the work and the "character" as literary constructions;
 - We refer to the narrator/speaker, not the author, as the voice of the piece;
 - We remember that while healing often occurs through our writing, this is not a therapy group, and we maintain our focus on the writing;
 - We concentrate on the writing at hand, not on anecdotes of our similar experiences;
 - We are all invited to read and may choose not to;
 - We respond to another's writing with only what we like, what stays with us, what moves us; and not, at this stage of vulnerability, with what will make it stranger.