

The Philadelphia Writing Project gave me the freedom to react and respond to readings, mini workshops, journal groups and discussions. Most of the writing I did was in the form of essays or vignettes, but some of the experiences were communicated in a poetic voice. Here are some of the poems I composed.

- * Mirrors and Windows was an activity in which we wrote our interpretation of a picture. The picture I picked was a 1942 black and white photo of a WWII battle scene.

It has come to this.
The cloud of black and white roars through the fields of repression
Not coexisting in the struggle for mutual respect,
nor joined in the journey of unity and love,
but forged as energy apart.
Blasting the impenetrable fog of consciousness.
Held at bay are the soldiers of truth.
As the arms of reason reach out for hope.

- * Sam Reed, Poetry Café, we were asked to choose a poetry form/style from packet provided. I selected an emotion then composed a poem to share with the group.

Fear is the color of blood.
Blood is the symbol of life.
Bloodless life is death.
Our inconceivable self passes beyond fear.
To a place of timeless life, without fear.

- * Cyndi's reading on the negative connotations for the word "black" made me think are there any positive images for black ?

How do you think black ?
Black tie affair, tuxedo black, graceful, sophisticated, elegant.
Black limousine a symbol of style and class.
Black is humility, respect for the dead.
A black belt is distinction , desire, and skill.
Black is sweet chocolate, dark syrup, tasty cocoa.
Black is the womb which we come from,
darkness is warmth snug and secure.
Black is the night, bright dreams light the sky,
without darkness no stars would shine.
So, if you're in the black, cheer !

- * Who am I ?

I am Mensch, Lunsman, Hebrew, Jew.
I am bagels, borsch, gifilte fish too.

I am a brother, rib crib,
G- town, Chelten Avenue.

I am Sicilian, brazen, and brash.
I am South Philly, talkin trash.

I am Latino, Esposo, compadre,
I am all of them in many ways