

A Portrait Poem
from Art Belliveau

Poetry deals with the emotions, just as music. An autobiographical poem is personal—it reveals something about the person writing the poem. It does not have to rhyme. Below is a simple plan to write your own autobiographical poem. Just follow the steps and—before you know it—it’s done.

Format

I am (first and last name)
Son/Daughter of (I've also used brother/sister of...)
Sibling of...
Who needs ..
Who loves ..
Who sees ..
Who hates ..
Who fears ..
Who dreams of..
Resident of ...
(last name)

For example, our main character Hannah’s poem would be written this way.

I am Hannah.
Daughter of mom and dad (no proper nouns were provided).
Sibling of Aaron.
Who needs to fit in my social world and to find meaning in my family’s heritage.
Who loves Aaron, Rosemarie, and my family.
Who sees a five digit number on my Grandpa Will’s arm.
Who hates family traditions, “not being normal”, remembering, and car rides.
Who fears being embarrassed by my Grandfather’s anger.
Who dreams of following the norm and getting my braces off.
Resident of New Rochelle, New York.
Stern

Appendix #2k