

"Tula [Books are door-shaped]" by Margarita Engle

- 1) Read the poem aloud to yourself, taking care to pause at every line break. Notice the words that seem to stick out to you.
- 2) Watch this [mini-lesson](#)
- 3) Choose an **object that is significant to you**, and find something you can compare it to. Engle compares books to doors. What is an object that is meaningful or important to you, and **how could you describe it by comparing it to another object?**
- 4) Then--this seems crazy, I know--write about that object **IN PROSE** (= in regular sentences and paragraphs)!

Compose **at least 5 paragraphs** about your object. Some paragraphs can be one sentence; some can be much longer. Think about following Engle's progression of stanzas (= poem paragraphs!):

- Stanza 1 → Intro to **metaphor**, imagery about **what object does for speaker**
 - Stanza 2 → **how others see the object** (like how Engle mentions her mother's view of books)
 - Stanzas 3-4 → Listing **details about the object in one-word sentences** (the way Engle says, "Poems. Stories. Plays." and "Ghosts. Vampires. Ancient Warriors.")
 - Stanzas 5 & 6 → An **ending that reveals** something about **why this object is important to you** (the way Engle reveals that girls being the heroes in books is important to her).
- 5) Now, start playing with line breaks. **Choose different places to break up your prose** into poetry. Some *might* be at the ends of sentences, but most should probably be in the middle. Some lines may only end up with one or two words, and one sentence may take 6 or 7 lines!

As you play with where to divide your prose into lines of poetry, notice **which words become emphasized** or more important. **Which ones do you want to resound with your reader the most?** Try to make those words stand out.