

Happy Monday! Are you ready to amp up your writing practice? I know I am. My big hope is that these Just Add Water weekly writing prompts will cultivate our writer's mind daily by having us ruminate on the week's piece-in-progress even when we're not physically scrawling or typing. Personally, I can't wait to fire up my computer when there's a draft waiting to be worked.

We become a better writer by becoming a better reader, so I've included a couple of craft inquiries in this week's exercise. Of course, feel free to skip those if your analyzing and creating brains don't play well together! Otherwise, complete each step before moving to the next:

1. Brainstorm 3 to 5 general activities—skill, hobby, or sport—you've learned, whether through self-study/practice, tutelage/lessons, or classes.
2. Read “Covers” by Kathryn Cowles:  
<http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/23200>
3. Reread, observing Cowles' language choices and punctuation use.
4. How does Cowles' word repetition and inconsistent/absent punctuation use serve the poem's content?
5. How does the prose-poem form (vs. a lineated/stanzaic form) serve the content of “Covers”?
6. Write your own piece, launching off Cowles' first phrase—“I learn to \_\_\_\_\_ so I can \_\_\_\_\_”—using one of your brainstorm ideas (trying to include all that you've learned in one poem will likely keep the inquiry shallow rather than deepen it toward discovery). Repeat multiple words if you can, but definitely the learning verb and any associated word (e.g., Cowles' “knit” and “cover(s)”), especially when you stall out, to drive the language across and down the page. (Remember to credit Kathryn Cowles with an epigraph, for example: *after Kathryn Cowles' poem “Covers” or with opening phrase modified from Kathryn Cowles' poem “Covers”*.)

Post your writing whether first draft or finished masterpiece, comment on others' writing (please, no constructive critique unless requested), and share your thoughts about the above craft inquiries in the Just Add Water discussion forum:

<http://theavocadosisterhood.com/members-home/just-add-water-forum/>

Write on!