

### Statement of Purpose:

First of all, I would want to arrange workshops across the city, at libraries or friendly coffeeshops, which would be led by local poets who could explore different styles and forms of poems – like prose poetry, lyrical poetry, rhyming and non-rhyming poetry, the villanelle, the sonnet, the African bantú, etc with the people of Cambridge. For some workshops I would want to call upon poets like Tom Daley, Reggie O’Hare Gibson, Doug Holder, Gloria Mindock, Irene Koronas, Richard Cambridge and myself. All of these people write in different styles and have given poetry workshops, whether it be “found” poems (using fragments of cut and pasted language from magazines like Irene Koronas) or political and empathic poems like Gloria Mindock as examples.

In addition. I would hold at least one workshop/presentation at CRLS which might start with giving each student a poem by a famous author and having them re-write that poem, or giving them writing prompts (like five – ten words to use in a poem.) Or even a first line. Or, using the newspaper and having them pick an article and write a poem based on a picture or a story. In addition, teenagers are pretty adept at writing about what they themselves experience, so I might use music as an environment in which to fire their imaginations. To introduce slam poetry, which is really a hybrid form that combines a theatrical monologue with poetic devices, I would have students dramatize an issue or problem in their lives and create a slam poem out of it.

Secondly, I think it is crucial that the website contain a listing of the poetry open mikes

and featured poetry events around Cambridge. For instance, every Wednesday night the Cantab has a great open mike followed by a slam event, where poets do in-your-face persona pieces and compete. The Lizard Lounge near Harvard Square has a similar program, that also includes a feature performing their poetry to the music of the Jeff Robinson trio. Patrons can become judges of the slam event that night. On Saturday nights, the Out of the Blue Gallery in Central Square offers both a music and poetry. And so on. In order to get people revved up about poetry, I think they need to see what's already happening in Cambridge. There is an open mike and on Monday night Stone Soup is famous for its open mike and videotaped performances. Not enough people, especially younger people have access to this information now.

I also think it would be great to end the year with an anthology of poems from various Cambridge residents that wouldn't necessarily have to be a Cambridge-themed book, but a book by the people in many voices and forms. In addition, for people who want to perform their work, we could host an event at the basement of the Cambridge Public Library. We could even do a slam one night, and a straight reading at some other point in time. Page poets and slam poets, though there is some crossover – are the two main tribes of poets in the City, as you probably know.

What might also be cool is if the website listed famous poets from Cambridge and even New England – like EE Cummings, Anne Sexton, Robert Lowell, etc. There is a rich tradition of poetry in Boston and people should avail themselves, through our great new library, of their works.