

Last Name McLaughlin
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Sec 1

English IIXL / Shakely

Original Poem Log # 8

*One log hides another, as one idea, one chore.
Many of these you'll provide, I trust.
Painful, tedious, insufferable, yet a must.*

Date 4 / 17 / 14

Title "Salt and Saffron" (Optional; add later? First Idea to Hit you?)

Context (Required. When/Where Written? Impetus/Catalyst/Source of Inspiration? Who or What?)

"Salt and Saffron" was inspired by my mother's cooking one night when I happened to be watching her prepare dinner. She was making risotto, an Italian dish of rice cooked in stock with other ingredients such as meat and vegetables, and, because I love risotto so much, I asked her questions regarding the composition and preparation of the dish. I observed her adding two particular spices that stood out, namely, salt and saffron. Salt of course is the white crystalline substance derived from seawater that adds liveliness and taste to food, while saffron is a spice and coloring agent made from the dried stigmas of a crocus. These two spices in the dish inspired me to write "Salt and Saffron," which I wrote at home in my kitchen and later typed onto my computer. "Salt and Saffron" is about peppering one's life with goodness and beauty.

Meaning (Required. This is more important than poem itself): Immediate CM re: the process, the product, your satisfaction/dissatisfaction level.

- 1 What were you trying to accomplish with poem? Theme? One-word ? CM/20 Questions?
- 2 Initial impressions once completed ("...started off good, .lost it"; Satisfaction / Dissatisfaction with it? Other?)

"Salt and Saffron" is meant to expose the reader to those people who truly live for beauty and meaning in life as well as the effects this yields in the long run. Ultimately, life is full of dull and dreary moments that make living depressing and disappointing at times; however, this poem tries to encourage the reader that there are also glimpses of hope and beauty that pepper human existence. It is up to people themselves to discover and to make the best of these instances that remind humans why their lives are even worth living in the first place. People need to sprinkle their lives with spices, the beauty of the world around them, if they are ever to get more out of life than the superficial and surface level contentment that arises from simply existing and making it through everyday struggles. "Salt and Saffron" urges people to open themselves up, to live, and to search for the significant things in their lives, so that they can ultimately attain a level of personal fulfillment and satisfaction that a life without spices could never offer. A life lacking seasoning is a life not worth living. For the most, part I thought that I had a good idea going with this poem; however, I was unfortunately able to articulate my thoughts in the cohesive and eloquent way I ultimately wanted to.

Relevance / Allusions (optional): Connections? Personal experience [Micro]? Historical [Macro]? Lit allusions?

Because of an increase in technology and means to accomplish tasks faster and quicker than ever before, people have become focused on the completely wrong things. Life has become simpler, but it has unfortunately caused people to take for granted many of the aspects that make life so beautiful and worth living. For example, there have been plenty of instances in my life where I have skipped doing something meaningful and significant, such as going to church on Sunday or spending time with family because it is "boring" or "a waste of time" when in reality the salt and the saffron constitute the beauty of human existence.

Form (optional): Anything you tried to do? Nothing? Diction? Poetry Terms? Symbolism? Why? The extended metaphor of spices in this poem clearly symbolizes or represents the beauty and magnificence of life that is oftentimes overlooked or left in the shadows as a result of modern advances. The poem has no structure or rhyme except for the fact that the lines exist in triplets, an arbitrary uniformity implemented for sake of convenience. Many of the lines of the poem are also enjambed, meaning they run into the next physical line without any punctuation.

The Poem Itself (attached): (Rough Draft Perfectly Acceptable. Need not be a neat copy. Or you may attach draft work if