

Death of an Innocent - “Found Poem”

Death of an Innocent seems to fit right here... near Jack London and Stephen Crane. It's about man in the wild. This man, Chris McCandless, is no fool. He has the tools and experience to survive in the wild, just like Jack London's “men.” Yet, like transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau, he “marches to his own drum.” (Interesting that Chris McCandless is reading both London and Thoreau while is in the wild.)

Your job is to write a “found poem” from words and phrases you find in “Death of an Innocent.”

- First, read *Death of an Innocent*.
- Consider the themes, lessons, insights you glean from reading this story.
- Make connections to other works/themes, especially from Realism/Naturalism and Romanticism/Transcendentalism.
- Have an idea of what you want to convey about the work (*Death of an Innocent*) and its themes (or other connections you have made about the world).
- Pick out words and phrases from the text to you use in your own poem. Arrange these words so that they make sense, while having some kind of meaning, depending on the message you are to trying to convey. What are the deeper truths? What images or phrases do you find in *Death of an Innocent* which show these? (Could you articulate this in prose if you had to?)

You need to:

- Word process
- Write **at least** 15 lines and 75 words
- Make it look pretty!
- Have an original title and your name on the front of the paper

Content = 20 pts.

Accuracy/Correctness = 5 pts.

Artistry = 10 pts

“Geez, Mr. Freyer – I hate poetry... well, really I hate writing poetry. I don't buy the whole idea that poetry helps me think in a more symbolic, abstract way and allows me to see a subject from a different angle. Can't I just write something?”

Sure... (I still believe that poetry helps you think in a more symbolic, abstract way that allows you to see a subject from a different angle. However...) Here it is:

Write a fictional dialogue between Jack London's “man” in “To Build a Fire” and Chris McCandless in “Death of an Innocent,” in which they comment on the philosophies, the perspectives, the deeds, or the lives of each other. Consider the setting in which this might take place. Since you are not using the more compact, efficient, symbolic, abstract language of poetry, you will need to make your dialogue at least 150 words. The rest of the directions above, still apply. Start with what you want to convey. Make your dialogue convey that. You certainly should be able to add creative and clever touches based on your knowledge of “The Man” and of Chris McCandless.