**Praise Poem**

A praise poem is a tribute. Praise poetry holds a special place in southern African literature.

In Zulu, praise poetry is called izibongo. It refers to poetic expression that not only defines but names an individual. Praise poetry is written with bold imagery, expressed in the most distinct or carefully selected language. Writing a praise poem is to write about your life and the events or sacrifices that have brought you to the moment you are in today.

Praise poetry is often a celebration of heritage, family, and place - a celebration of who we are and where we come from. As such, Praise Poetry can be intensely personal. Today, we are going to write praise poems about the day, today, and all that encompasses including the joy and pain of writing, teaching, and living in Eastern Kentucky.

We will share these examples:

Read “In Praise of the Writer”

Praise Poem for Jikki: <http://youtu.be/sDjbV5ULlHc>

Won’t You Celebrate With Me: <http://youtu.be/XM7q_DUk5wU>

Now let us spend some time writing our own praise poems in praise of, in celebration of, whatever has inspired you about this day, whatever has brought you to this moment as a writer, a teacher, a person – and then we will share.