



vision+voice

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

What is Vision+Voice?

A poetry contest for all K-12 students
in the ACC Service Area

- For every grade level & every language
- Judged by ACC Creative Writing students and faculty
- All entries published online
- Winning & honorable mention poems published in the V+V anthology
- Winning and honorable mention poets videotape their poems at KLRU studios
- Winning poems published on posters
- All students and teachers honored at the V+V Award Reception

How to Submit Your Poem:

k12visionandvoice.org

- One submission per poem
- Make sure your parent/guardian fills in name, email, and phone

Students may enter as many poems as they'd like!

What Makes a Poem?

- It can be about ANYTHING
- Can use few words
- Has a unique form and shape
- May or may not have rhythm and rhyme
- Has a title
- Let's you get to know the poet
- May be serious or funny
- Usually expresses important personal feelings
- Often ends with a punch

What Makes a Good Poem?

Imagery

Use all 5 senses - images aren't just visual.

Originality

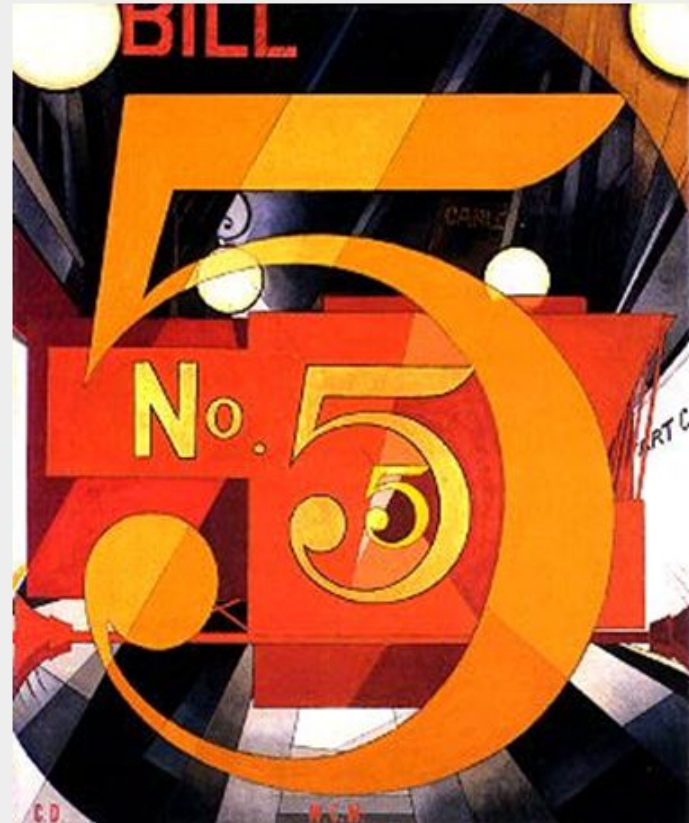
Use your own words in your own way.

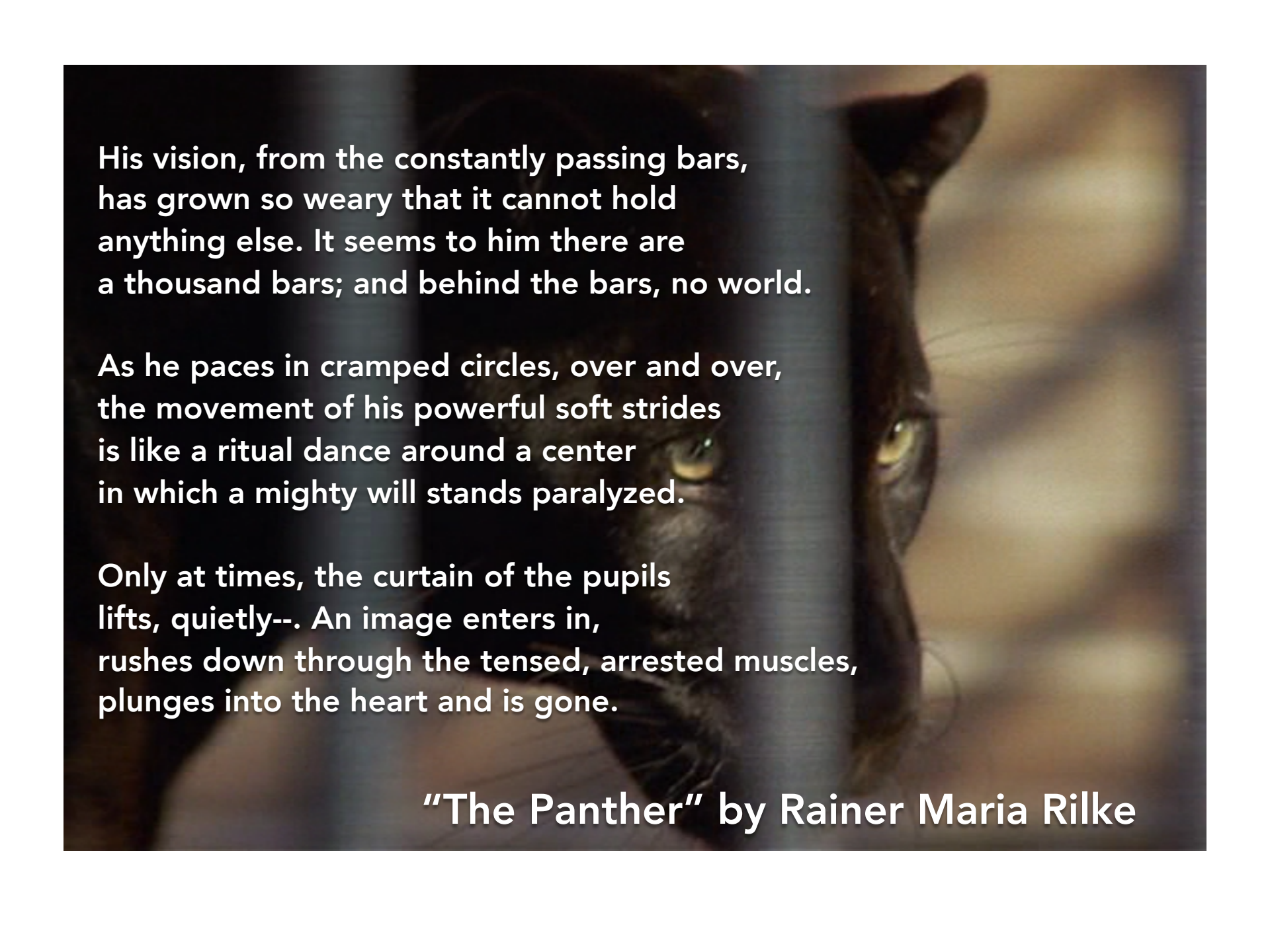
Use of Language and Form

Don't sacrifice a great phrase or image just to make a rhyme.

William Carlos Williams, “The Great Figure”

Among the rain
and lights
I saw the figure 5
in gold
on a red
fire truck
moving
tense
unheeded
to gong clangs
siren howls
and wheels rumbling
through the dark city





His vision, from the constantly passing bars,
has grown so weary that it cannot hold
anything else. It seems to him there are
a thousand bars; and behind the bars, no world.

As he paces in cramped circles, over and over,
the movement of his powerful soft strides
is like a ritual dance around a center
in which a mighty will stands paralyzed.

Only at times, the curtain of the pupils
lifts, quietly--. An image enters in,
rushes down through the tensed, arrested muscles,
plunges into the heart and is gone.

"The Panther" by Rainer Maria Rilke

The Pool Players.
Seven at the Golden Shovel.

We real cool. We
Left school. We

Lurk late. We
Strike straight. We

Sing sin. We
Thin gin. We

Jazz June. We
Die soon.

-- Gwendolyn Brooks



"Behind Grandma's House" by Gary Soto

At ten I wanted fame. I had a comb
And two coke bottles, a tube of Bryl-creem.
I borrowed a dog, one with
Mismatched eyes and a happy tongue,
And wanted to prove I was tough
In the alley kicking over trash cans,
A dull chime of tuna cans falling.
I hurled light bulbs like grenades,
And men teachers held their heads,
Fingers of blood lengthening
On the ground. I flicked rocks at cats,
Their goofy faces spurred with foxtails.
I kicked fences. I shooed pigeons.
I broke a branch from a flowering peach
And frightened ants with a stream of spit.
I said "Chale," "In your face," and "No way
Daddy-O" to an imaginary priest
Until grandma came into the alley,
Her apron flapping in a breeze,
Her hair mussed, and said, " Let me help you,"
And punched me between the eyes.

Discuss

- What imagery did the poet use?
- How does the word choice make the poem effective?
- What feelings are expressed?
- What do you notice about the form/shape of the poem?
- What did you learn about the poet?

**We look forward to
reading your poems!**



Submission Deadline: December 31

Winners Announced: February 15

Award Reception: April 26