

Poetry

Writing Workshop

Drafting and Elaboration

After rereading the first draft of a poem, one student realized that the images weren't specific enough to convey the emotions she was trying to express. Make the poem more vivid by using the Suggestions for Elaboration, the information in the Reader's Notebook below, and your own ideas. Copy your revised poem on a separate sheet of paper.

Draft

The Friend

Every morning
I stroked the bark
of the pretty plant
and, if it were spring,
the pretty buds,
stiff and shiny,
and lined up on long branches.

I still feel it
when I close my eyes.

Suggestions for Elaboration

- Provide the plant's name.
- Explain where the plant is.
- Avoid the use and repetition of the word pretty.
- Use figurative language and sound devices.
- Find a way to make the conclusion deliver more emotional impact.

READER'S NOTEBOOK

■ The writer saw the plant every morning on her way to school. ■ The magnolia tree had gray bark that felt cool to the touch. ■ In the spring, the magnolia had firm buds on it that were often moist because of the morning dew. ■ The buds were lined up in a pleasingly symmetrical pattern on the branches. ■ The writer imagines that the magnolia is whispering to her now.