

# PANTOUMS & PANTIES

Presented By : Marissa Forbes

# ABOUT ME



- *Surviving Peter Pan* (Beyond the Veil Press)
- *Brief & Bleeding Margins* (World Stage Press)
- Managing Editor of “Twenty Bellows” Lit Mag
- Poetry Instructor for Community Literature Initiative & Art Instructor at Art Garage
- Writer, Collage artist and painter
- Single mother of two boys, Jack & Layne

# MOOD CHECK

**What changes with fashion was most surprising to you within the exhibit? How did it make you feel?**

**Please keep answers to around a minute.**

# WHAT IS A PANTOUM?

**: a Malaysian verse form adapted by French poets and imitated in English.**

**It comprises a series of quatrains, with the second and fourth lines of each quatrain repeated as the first and third lines of the next.**

**The second and fourth lines of the final stanza repeat the first and third lines of the first stanza.**

# PANTOUM TEMPLATE

## Stanza 1: ABAB

1 First line (A)

2 Second line (B)

3 Third line rhymes with first (A)

4 Fourth line rhymes with second (B)

## Stanza 2: BCBC

5 Repeat the second line (B)

6 Sixth line (C)

7 Repeat the fourth line (B)

8 Eighth line rhymes with sixth (C)

## Stanza 3: CDCD

9 Repeat the sixth line (C)

10 Tenth line (D)

11 Repeat the eighth line (C)

12 Twelfth line rhymes with the tenth (D)

## Stanza 4: DADA

13 Repeat tenth line (D)

14 Fourteenth line rhymes with first (A)

15 Repeat twelfth line (D)

16 Repeat the first line (A)

# PANTOUM FOR THE GREAT DEPRESSION

5

Donald Justice



Center for Women's History April 2024

# LET'S TALK

Pantoum often address grief or trauma because the form creates cycles in the narrative through repetition, instead of forcing a linear narrative.

This poem uses the pantoum form to revisit and meditate on grief, and to talk about a difficult time that the speaker wasn't able to express his feelings about while it was happening.

## Tips:

1. Hone in on the grief or hardship you're exploring through the sense
2. Layer the emotions with examples
3. Show the story of grief without actually saying the words sad or grief

# PANTOUM SIMPLIFIED

**Stanza 1: ABAB**

**Stanza 2: BCBC**

**Stanza 3: CDCD**

**Stanza 4: DADA**

**Line 1 (A)**

**Line 2 (B)**

**Line 5 (C)**

**Line 7 (D)**

**Line 2 (B)**

**Line 5 (C)**

**Line 7 (D)**

**Line 3 (A)**

**Line 3 (A)**

**Line 4 (B)**

**Line 6 (C)**

**Line 8 (D)**

**Line 4 (B)**

**Line 6 (C)**

**Line 8 (D)**

**Line 1 (A)**



# PANTOUM FOR WHAT WE LET GROW

8

K. McClendon



Center for Women's History April 2024

# LET'S TALK

McCelon uses veiled language to show her experiences with abuse-her cheek turned into a field of roses.

Repetition expresses exasperation and continued confusion and questioning of cyclical traumatic experience.

## Tips:

1. Use an original way to convey the traumatic experience
2. Built on the experience to show the cyclical nature of the experience
3. Add questions to your stanzas and see how they change in the following stanzas

# A PANTOUM FOR WOMEN

Marissa Forbes

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- |    |  |   |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|----|--|---|
| 1. | March is a month for Women's History.          | A | 2. | Ghosts of female figures fill the news. Feed   | B |
| 2. | Ghosts of female figures fill the news feed.   | B | 5. | her fear when she walks alone.                 | C |
| 3. | Overlooked ladies, another untold story.       | A | 4. | A little girl gripping. Lists of books to read | B |
| 4. | A little girl gripping lists of books to read. | B | 6. | about how to drive change, to be known.        | C |
| 5. | (Her) fear when she walks. Alone.              | C | 7. | Worse if she's a minority. Talking             | D |
| 7. | Worse. If she's a minority talking             | D | 9. | to her daughters about their history –         | A |
| 6. | about how to drive change. To be known         | C | 6. | about how to make change. (To be known.)       | D |
| 8. | by her ancestors – to hear them knocking.      | D | 1. | March is a month for Women. Her stories.       | A |

# LET'S TALK

The pantoum form is used in this poem to explore collective strife and historical, systemic struggle, in nonlinear experiences.

Altering grammar and sentence structure can be a tool to change meaning or lead into new themes in each stanza.

## Tips:

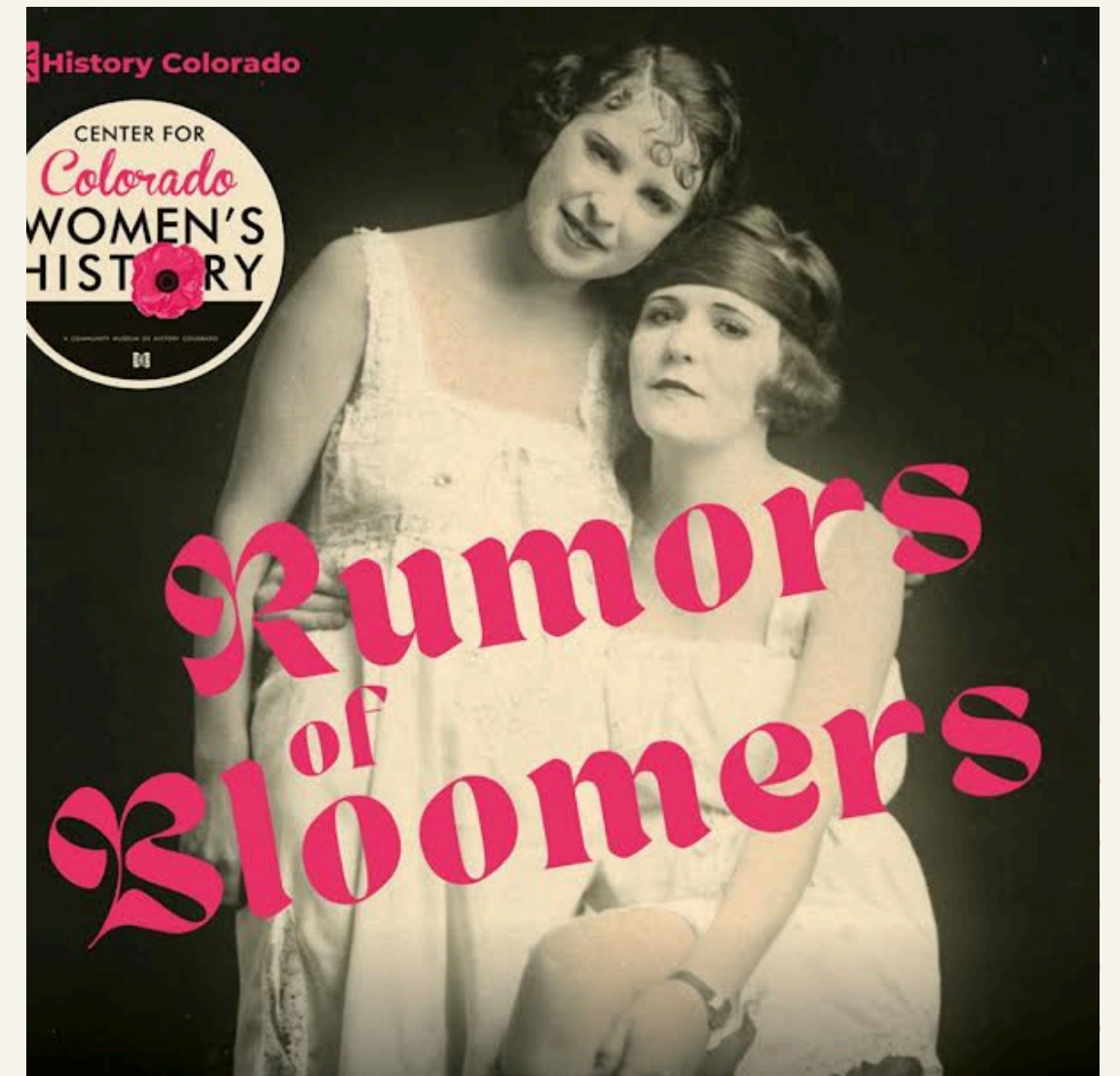
1. Alter the grammar and punctuation within the repeated lines.
2. Alter the last stanza as you see fit.
3. Always bookend the poem by using the same first & last line, alter to expand the notion of change.



# IT'S YOUR TURN

We will have a word generation session followed by prompt writing.

We will share out our creations.



# WORD GENERATIONS

**Write a single or a few word(s):**

- 1. Emotion you felt on the tour or an event that sticks with you**
- 2. Color related to the emotion or event**
- 3. Object related to the emotion or event**
- 4. Action related to the emotion or event**
- 5. Negative word related to the emotion or event**
- 6. Positive word related to the emotion or event**
- 7. Misunderstanding about the emotion or event**
- 8. Truth about the emotion or event**

# PROMPT

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**Use form to write a pantoum based off your generated words.**

**Stanza 1: ABAB**

**Stanza 2: BCBC**

**Stanza 3: CDCD**

**Stanza 4: DADA**

**Line 1 (A)**

**Line 2 (B)**

**Line 5 (C)**

**Line 7 (D)**

**Line 2 (B)**

**Line 5 (C)**

**Line 7 (D)**

**Line 3 (A)**

**Line 3 (A)**

**Line 4 (B)**

**Line 6 (C)**

**Line 8 (D)**

**Line 4 (B)**

**Line 6 (C)**

**Line 8 (D)**

**Line 1 (A)**

Center for Women's History April 2024

# THANK YOU

Join me April 17, 2024 10a-12p  
for "Personification: Briefs & Bleeding"  
Register online or at the front desk

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History Colorado

