

The Mississippi Poetry Podcast Supplement

Ep. 3: Beth Ann Fennelly

1. Listen (13 minutes). Play *The Mississippi Poetry Podcast w/ Beth Ann Fennelly*

2. Write (10-25 minutes, as time allows)

Materials Needed:

notebook

pen/pencil

Writing Exercise: Letter to Your Future Self

"In poetry you can jump around to any time period you want," says Beth Ann Fennelly in discussing her poem about her daughter. In this exercise, participants will write an epistolary poem—a letter poem—to a future version of themselves. Ask participants to choose a particular time in the future (sixty years, five years, ten minutes). Writers might wish to structure their poem using the phrase "I imagine you" to start some or all of their lines. Encourage participants to be specific, and to include some variety in this poem (for example, a question, an apology, and a wish).

Example:

I imagine you silver-haired, punk-rock.

I imagine you oceanside.

Do you have a dog? Do you wake up early?

I'm sorry I wasn't better at flossing.

I hope you still love gingko trees and silver things.

I hope you have a dog.

3. Share (5-10 minutes)

If time and comfort levels allow, invite participants to share their poems!

Related Materials:

Beth Ann Fennelly's website: www.bethannfennelly.com

Poetry Out Loud (poems for memorizing & reciting): www.poetryoutloud.org

Toll House cookie recipe: <https://bit.ly/tollhouserecipe>

