

# The Mississippi Poetry Podcast Supplement

## Ep. 16: Nadia Alexis

**1. Listen (17 minutes).** Play *The Mississippi Poetry Podcast w/ Nadia Alexis*

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

Materials Needed: notebook, pen/pencil

### Writing Exercise: Rewriting Your Story

In her poem “Cantaloupe,” Nadia Alexis rewrites a story from her own life, changing and adding details in order to reinvent an experience. Using “Cantaloupe” as a model, invite participants to choose an event from their own life and rewrite it in whatever way they like—they might change the outcome completely, or introduce a new character, or subtly alter some details in a meaningful way. As always, encourage writers to use specificity and imagery when possible. Encourage them, too, to take a cue from what they wonder about this particular event, and to keep in mind Nadia Alexis’s observation that “the best pieces of writing are from questions.”

**3. Share (5-10 minutes)**

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

### **Related Materials:**

Nadia Alexis’s website: [bynadiaalexis.com](http://bynadiaalexis.com)

“Cantaloupe” (*Shenandoah* magazine): [shenandoahliterary.org/702/cantaloupe/](http://shenandoahliterary.org/702/cantaloupe/)

Are mushrooms a vegetable? [bit.ly/hsph-harvard-mushroom](http://bit.ly/hsph-harvard-mushroom)

