Preparation for Poetry Conference
Adapted from *Awakening the Heart* and *For the Good of the Earth and Sun* by Georgia Heard
and *Lessons That Change Writers* by Nancie Atwell

Poet __________________________________ Date __________________

Name of poem __________________________________________________

This conference sheet is about what you are trying to communicate; it will help you convey clear images and strong feelings. Remember that revision means adding, removing, changing, or moving words, and as the poet, you make the decision.

1. What do you want your poem to do?

2. Check off the revision strategies you’ve used:

   _____ Leave your poem and come back to it; how can you improve it?
   _____ What feelings do you want to convey?
   _____ What images do/can you use to communicate the feeling?
   _____ Draw your poem; what is missing?
   _____ Highlight your images; can you make them more vivid or add images?
   _____ Try repetition to stress a word, phrase, idea, or theme
   _____ Read your poem and listen for its music.
   _____ Delete unnecessary words; cut the poem to the bone.
   _____ Circle tired words and find fresh ones to replace them; consider using thesaurus.
   _____ Break lines to stress pauses or silences.
   _____ Experiment with the size, shape, and length of lines and stanzas.
   _____ Strengthen your verbs; be specific.
   _____ Try figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification).
   _____ Experiment with poetic devices (alliteration, onomatopoeia, assonance).
   _____ Consider punctuation; use commas and periods to make poem move.
   _____ Try different endings until you find the one that works best.
   _____ Read your poem to one friend, using conference form to record comments.

3. How can I help you?

4. Notes from your conference: