

## 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: