

## Imagery, Concision, & ["Yellowjackets" by Karen J. Weyant](#)

Some poems hinge on an image -- a crystal-clear picture or film that plays before the reader's eyes. Imagery makes the reader feel like they are present in the action, like they could reach out and touch it.

However, imagery *doesn't* mean a lot of details. Poets are still concise. Even in longer poems, poets are trying to use as few words as possible to convey their message. So, to create true imagery, they have to use very powerful words.

Let's talk about this concept in the poem "Yellowjackets" by Karen J. Weyant. (You need to watch both videos!)

[Poems rooted in imagery vs. Poems rooted in ideas](#)

[How poets achieve imagery and concision at the same time.](#)

### DO SOME BRAINSTORMING

- 1) Think back to some moments in your life whose pictures are seared in your brain. These moments might be:
  - Exceptionally strong memories (short ones!)
  - Images/Pictures you remember clearly in your brain that *aren't* attached to memories.
  - Moments that changed you in some way
  - Photographs you love, that you've seen a lot, that seem to symbolize a time for you.
- 2) Now, list as many details as you can:
  - Colors
  - Textures
  - Sounds
  - Tastes
  - Shapes and sizes
- 3) Highlight the ones you want to use and either:
  - a) Travel to the [thesaurus](#). Choose a more powerful, clearer-picture-version of that word. (ONLY CHOOSE WORDS YOU KNOW!)
  - OR
  - b) Come up with a metaphor or simile to describe it. What else looks like that? Sounds like that? Tastes like that? Etc.

*This planning should go in your weekly poetry work template.*

## DRAFT A POEM

A good way to achieve concision in your poetry is to first, not worry about being concise at all! Draft out your poem however it comes to mind! THEN, go back and look for words (even tiny words) you can remove to make your poem tighter and more powerful.

Try to be as concise as possible while still painting a picture so vivid that your reader feels like they are in that moment with you. *Your draft should go in your weekly poetry work template.*