**“The Futile Pursuit of Happiness” : Making Connections Through Poetry to Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451* Continued…**

 If you are struggling with writing an original poem, an option may be to use a poetry scaffold. What is poetry scaffold, you ask? A scaffold in this case refers to a built in structure that is meant to help a person start building a poem. This structure is flexible, meaning that a student does not have to use all parts of the scaffold and can make changes as necessary. For an example of a poetry scaffold, look at the section below:

“I Meant To Today”

I meant to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ today,
But \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
And \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
And \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
I meant to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ today, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ got in my way.

Here is an example of a completed poem using the above scaffold:

“I Meant To Have a Good Day Today”

I meant to have a good day today,
But I didn't have a good night's sleep.

And my parents continue to wait until a specific calendar day to turn on the heat so I was freezing.
Then my students were being squirrely today.
And I didn't teach my best today.
And I slammed my car door on my hand.
And the person I sold my iPod Touch to nearly two weeks ago still has yet to receive the package; which lead to an anxiety attack about money.
And my mother was in a mood, a loud, obnoxious mood.
And my caffeine wore off.

I meant to have a good day today, but fate got in my way.
- Ms. Ng

[[1]](#footnote-1)

**CONSTRUCTING A SONNET**

Using your knowledge of how Shakespeare put together his sonnets, construct your own love sonnet using the same structure. The letters below refer to the rhyming pattern. Remember each line should have **10 syllables** *(or five iambs!).* Write one word per box. Use the following sheet to write your sonnet.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1**a** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2**b** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3**a** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4**b** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5**c** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6**d** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7**c** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8**d** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9**e** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10**f** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11**e** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12**f** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13**g** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14 ***Rhyming Couplet*****g** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Consider using the scaffold above, or selecting your own.

1. Source: http://thischildleftbehind.blogspot.ca/2008/10/activity-of-week-poetry-scaffolds.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)