

POETRY WRITING

DEVELOPING A PERSONA...

- ✓ Give students a rough scrap of paper.
- ✓ Write on the scrap one well-known MALE character. (Think: pop culture, movies, music, history, fiction. Think of ANYONE who is big in your imagination/background)
- ✓ Redistribute scraps to class.
- ✓ Tell students they are going to be the WIFE (EX), SISTER, LOVER, TWIN SISTER, DAUGHTER, MOTHER of their MALE.
- ✓ Ask students to think about what their character is known for. (Achievements, villains, heroes)
- ✓ Tell students that they are going to CELEBRATE, SUBVERT, CHALLENGE, DEBUNK, EXPLORE their male. (Explain each term. Students can decide what they'll choose to do)
- ✓ Help students to see which female position would do. (Celebrate = wife, subvert or debunk or challenge = ex-wife or daughter or sister...etc.)
- ✓ Give students chance to choose the FORM of their poem:
 - An interview/questioning/direct address from female?
 - 4 line verses x 5 stanzas?
 - Diary?
 - Postcards? Texts?
 - Anyway for the speaker to talk to the reader...
- ✓ Give a good length of time to let students complete, but keep it immediate. Good idea to give frame of number of stanzas/lines expected.
- ✓ Present poems, write in neat, up on wall!

This works really well with Carol Ann Duffy's poems, 'Elvis's Twin Sister', 'Anne Hathaway', 'Salome'. Armitage's 'Kid' also...