English IV

Mrs. Sherry Brown

Bio-poem Assignment[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Pair up with a classmate and interview one another, writing down the answers to each of the questions.
2. Exchange papers, so each student gets the sheet with his own answers to these questions.
3. For homework (due tomorrow), compose an original poem about yourself. You may follow the format shown exactly, or you may change it up a bit. Your poem must be between 11 and 15 lines. You may type the poem, or write it out neatly. Turn in a copy and keep a copy for yourself.

Line 1: first name

Line 2: four traits that describe person

Line 3: relative of (brother of, sister of, and so on) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Line 4: lover of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (list 3 things or people)

Line 5: who feels \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3 items)

Line 6: who needs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3 items)

Line 7: who writes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3 items)

Line 8: who fears \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3 items)

Line 9: who gives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3 items)

Line 10: who would like to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3 items)

Line 11: resident of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Line 12: last name

Examples:

The first example was written for a philosophy course on Dostoevsky’s Grand Inquisitor.[[2]](#footnote-2)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Inquisitor,  Friend of no one, peer of few.  Lover of self, wisdom, and unconquerable  knowledge.  Who feels neither pity nor compassion nor the  love of God.  Who needs no man, save for himself.  Who fears the kiss that warms his heart.  And the coming tide which will not retreat.  Who radiates cold shafts of broken glass  And who fits all mankind with collar and chain.  Who would like to see the deceivers burned  And Christ to be humbled before him.  Resident of ages past,  The Grand Inquisitor. | Sherry,  Compassionate, thoughtful, calm and passionate  Mother of daughter Tyler, and sons Quentin and  Conor  Lover of Ernest, earnestness, and rain lilies  Feels breathless, lucky, and beloved  Needs acceptance, challenges, and the wind on my  face  Writes to explain, to explore, and to celebrate  Fears close-mindedness, dragonflies, and a  separation from nature  Gives my heart, my time, and salsa  Would like to continue learning, continue  experiencing, and to overcome self-doubt  Resident of San Antonio and this whole wide  intimate world  Brown |

1. Adapted from a presentation by Dr. Jon Olson, Writing Center and Professional Development Seminar, Bread Loaf School of English, Santa Fe, 2012. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ann R. Gere, ed., Roots in the Sawdust: Writing to Learn Across the Disciplines (Urbana, IL: NCTE, 1985), 222. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)