

Preparation for Week 1 Meeting: "Poetry that Talks Back."

Please read the following poems a few times. Listen to the audio file (or read each aloud). Notice (and perhaps jot down a few notes about) specific words, phrases, spacing, organization, images, etc. that strike you as significant, unusual, confusing, beautiful, contradictory, etc. What questions do you have? It is not necessary to "understand" everything you notice.

Please WAIT to do any outside reading about these poems, or to bring prior knowledge immediately to bear. Starting fresh with what YOU notice, unprompted, will benefit the group. Read such materials after our group meeting, keeping our recent discussion in mind. (I will provide some materials, and you can find more).

Next week, whether or not you have read further, we will begin with a conversation about how your thoughts about the poems have evolved.

POEMS:

1. Denise Levertov: "The Secret" (Note: This is not part of a talk-back pair). **Text attached.** <https://soundcloud.com/brainpicker/denise-levertov-reads-the-secret>

2A. "Mending Wall," by Robert Frost, read by Robert Frost! **Text included. Also attached.**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfN05JNhi3k

2B. "Amending Wall," by Darrel Alejandro Holnes. **Text attached.**

<https://soundcloud.com/brooklynpoets/darrel-alejandro-holnes-amending-wall>

SOME FURTHER READING AND LISTENING (Please hold off till after session 1):

Along with the poem "Mending Wall," you will find a "poem guide" at:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44266/mending-wall>

This is a podcast in the Poetry Unbound series from "On Being":

<https://onbeing.org/programs/darrel-alejandro-holnes-amending-wall/>

An interview with Denise Levertov:

YouTube.com/watch?v=KOFYRZmIPrU

A reading and analysis of "The Secret":

YouTube.com/watch?v=FkyN7zb-u7A&t=9s