

Through the long process of revision to make my final poem I feel that I have grown a lot as a writer along with my poem. At the beginning of my writing it was a really rough and choppy, I only had two of my final four paragraphs and even then those paragraphs were highly revised over the rest of the process. I think that i've grown a lot throughout the course of our revisions, i've learned to make more revisions that I think I need to do. I was growing impatient with the length of the project, yet at the end I was really content with the amount of critiques I was given and the improvements to my poem I was able to make because of them. Overall as I was working to make my final version I was able to include a lot more imagery and connections to other portions of the poem. One main example for this was my circling back to the apricot blossoms. "Sunlight once streaming through the ballerina pink/...Muting the flush pastel of the apricot blossoms." This was the two lines in my poem talking about this and I think that it fit nicely into the poem and it created more associations.

One main revision I was given was to make the difference between my memories and the present more defined. In a previous first draft of my second paragraph I wrote; "Dark cloth attracting harsh rays/Muddy shoes mirroring footprints/on the freshly polished floors." This entire portion of the poem just wasn't where I wanted it to be, it seemed awkward and out of place. After some peer critiques and conferences with Lori, I changed it to; "My senses suffocated by the harsh blaring music/Transported to another realm as my chapped lips mouth along/Large ripped shoes drag on the cold pavement." I was a lot happier with how this and my second paragraph ended up fitting into my poem. I think that it effects the emotion the poem holds more because it gives the feeling of more absence about my missing of my childhood. Along with this the change between paragraphs is more clear and easier to read

Another problem area with my poem was the third paragraph. This correlated to the overall issue of my poem I was trying to combat the entire time, the problem that the distinctions weren't clear enough. "Wafting scents of sweet bug spray/Scorching eyes from greasy dripping sunscreen/Fragile splintered hands/Creaky swings swaying in the quiet wind/A small puddle seeps through faded canvas." This was my first attempt to write this paragraph and it was just pieced together. I wasn't happy with how this was so I rewrote it to a version I was happy with. "I rewind to wafting scents of sweet bug spray,/Young scorching eyes from greasy dripping sunscreen/Fragile splintered hands from the/Creaky swing sets swaying in the quiet wind/A small puddle seeps through faded canvas/As I know this is the last time I can wear these tattered shoes." I liked this version a lot more because it was a more obvious shift in the tone and timing making it better to read. I also think that this paragraph has good imagery making you more connected to the poem.

I think that one of the most important revisions made to my poem was a line at the end talking more about how my teenager life is more effected by the media and things like that around me. "The remote is briefly slapped distracting our wandering minds./A repetitive beep more crucial than my need to drink and breath/I remain pushed down by my surroundings,/"

Time passes until i'm drowned all together/." This was an important portion of the poem because it is showing more about the challenges I experience and it makes it more emotional and easier to connect to. At the beginning of my writing I didn't include the third line of this. I am happier with how my poem turned out because I did include this line. Without this line I felt that this portion of the poem was missing something. Things like media and overall cell phones are a huge part of my life so I really wanted to show the difference between how content I was as a child without a phone compared to me now.