# **Mixtape: Celebrate World Poetry Month** with CBTV

**Chapter 1 - Mixtape: Celebrate World Poetry Month**

Accidental poetry with e bond

- Stories can be found everywhere and if you're like me, you have stacks of books all around your house. Walk up to a few and take a picture. Now we can read the titles to make up an impromptu short story or poem. Do the windows open? How to read water. First we make the beasts beautiful. Sassafrass, cypress and indigo. The courage to create. The queen's gambit. Call and response. The sea around us. Under the jaguar sun. And the pursuit of happiness. Letters from Max. Sign my name to freedom. Wow, that sounded really beautiful. Now, here's another one. Damn good advice for people with talent. Grief is the thing with feathers, the tradition, the book of light, flights. The black Maria. Sight lines. Diversity and complexity. It's not magic. The master's tools. Biomimicry. On extinction. A beautiful question. That one's really great too. (instructor chuckling) With this last one that I wrote, I read it in the order that the pile was just sitting on my work table. But then I decided to cut it up and make a more intentional poem. The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. On extinction. Diversity and complexity. Flights, the black Maria, the book of light, the tradition, a beautiful question. Finding nature's deep design. Biomimicry, sight lines. Damn good advice for people with talent. Grief is the thing with feathers. It's not magic. Play around with found poetry all over your house. Think about DVD titles or opening up your pantry and reading all your cereal boxes. Just have fun with it.

Map a poem with e bond

- I love to use my own words in my work, but I also love taking inspiration from other people's work as well. Your prompt today is to pick a poem or song that you love and use it in your map. This book by Katrina McHugh is a great example of using text, already existing text. In her case, she used song lyrics in a really fun and inventive way. You can pick your inspiration from either a background that you've already made, or already existing text that you pick. In my case, I was using this as a piece of scrap paper where I was cleaning off my paint scrapers, and all of a sudden, it started to remind me of one of my favorite poems by Marie Howe called "The Meadow." The first thing I'm gonna do is look through the text again and start to point out things that I wanna remember, maybe things that I wanna add to my map. Once you've got some key phrases or some words you really love and wanna work with, start to add them along with any other lines or other elements that you might have onto your background. For this drawing, I was thinkin' I might keep it simple, so I just have a bunch of black pens of different weights, and then one white one. There was a line in the poem about a fence, so I'm gonna add that in first, I think. There's a lot of sound in this poem, which is so beautiful, so I'm trying to think of ways to visually illustrate what sound might look like in an abstract way. She mentions a lot of beautiful words, like murmuring. Crying out, I'm choosing to free-write, or use my handwriting on this one, but you can also use a typewriter or computer and print out pieces of the poem or the song that you use if that goes better with your drawing or map. She ends the poem with this really great line about a sentence that could change your life, thinking about that might be the thing that kinda goes off my map into oblivion. When I saw this scrap paper, it automatically made me think of this poem. I mean, some of it for obvious reasons, the color made me think of a really green space like a meadow, but the other reasons were that it also felt very optimistic in a way, and promising without being overly teary. If you're having a hard time at

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this point trying to figure out what to actually draw, I would go back to the initial text and take a moment, and look at the list that you've isolated, and the words, and try to visually think about what each word would look like as a symbol, or an abstract mark, or even a shape.

Found Word Poem with Courtney Cerruti
- When making things, books or drawing or sit down to start a new project, the images is what comes most easily for me, and the writing is always a second. So this is an activity that will help you create poetry, come up with phrases and new words to work with. It's a found-word poem. This is something I teach in all of my altered bookmaking classes or accordion bookmaking classes. It's a really fun activity because you don't have to write words, you don't have to draw from your own vocabulary. You're actually gonna work with found pages. You just tear these out of a book or a magazine. I've got two pages here. You can just do this with one, but because this is a small book, and I'm only gonna be able to use one side of the page, I ripped out two. The idea is to highlight, underline, circle the words that pop out at you, and you're supposed to do this quickly. You're not supposed to belabor. You're not thinking about crafting new sentences and certainly not paragraphs. You're gonna cut all this out and rearrange it. So this is really just about highlighting the words that immediately spark some kind of interest. If you don't want to circle the words, you can also black-out the words that you don't like, it's up to you. (pleasant electronic music) (humming) Alright, I'm gonna cut up the words that I underlined, and we're gonna rearrange them on the page to make a new poem. (inspiring electronic music) There are all my words. I'm definitely not gonna be using all of them, so I'm just gonna rearrange and kind of play with phrases. For me, this would probably go into a book or a sketchbook. It might become a card. It's a really fun way to kind of play with language that isn't your own and create new phrases and poems out of it. Sometimes they're kind of dark, and sometimes they're silly. And sometimes they don't make a lot of sense, and that's fine. Alright, I'm just gonna move things over, so we'll place "shining like," "innocent," "broken limb," "pure woman," "shocks," "evermore," "falls," "evermore," "when I speak," "now lies." "Stars of love smoldered thy manhood, "shining like innocent broken limb. "Pure woman falls evermore when I speak now lies." "Now lies young heart." Hmm. Yeah, that's it. That's the one (laughing). So maybe I'll save some of these other words. I can create new phrases. You can play with it. I like to just kind of react and put it together. I will probably glue this down just so I don't lose all these little, tiny, fragile fragments of paper. But then I could cut it up again, and I can glue it in a new place. "Stars of love," I really like that. That could be a great title for something. "Smoldered thy manhood, shining like innocent broken limb. "Pure woman falls evermore when I speak. "Now lies young heart." Yeah, that's good. I like it. Using my favorite glue stick for this. It's easier to just, like, lick your finger, place it right onto your glue stick. Your fingers are gonna get a little bit gluey. That's fine. You can also use a small brush, and gel medium would work really well for this. (playful music) I feel like "broken limb" should be "limbs" or something. I don't know. It's gonna go there. It's a really fun way to create new content for yourself. Somebody who did this in the most epic scale is this guy, Tom Phillips. He took a Victorian novel called The Human Document and did this with every single page. Instead of cutting out and re-gluing it down, he drew or colored around, and I'll show you in a just a second. The new title for that book is called Humument, and you can see how he created patterns, he painted, he circled, created these little underground-tunnel-looking things. And I think, I don't know for sure, I haven't read it from start to finish, but a kind of new narrative is created through this practice. It's kind of amazing. Uh, there are some flower petals from earlier in my week. "Humument," that's probably how he got the title, maybe on that particular page. "See, see, see the

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things, the things from the changed sea. "No future, furniture." These are super fun to read. And they don't really make a lot of sense, and that's totally fine. You can just pick out tiny little phrases. I think they're a great way to come up with titles. I find that titling artwork is really hard, and it's really fun sometimes to put abstract concepts with your art and let the viewer bring their own narrative to the piece. Try making a found-word poem. It's a great way to generate new content for yourself.

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