



# Writers to Readers Weekly



Writers to Readers Weekly is a weekly newsletter for teachers of English, highlighting short works by contemporary writers for children and teens

March 18, 2020

Ed. 1, Issue #3

## Sunday Morning: Part One

Dawn comes at 6:30  
And wakes me.  
The ink of night fades into pink lemonade  
A line of orange slices the horizon

The sun peeks up slowly  
Rays bisect the dusty sky  
Long thin strips of cloud, like stretched out ribbons  
Illuminated by fire  
Drift away, their night-time condensation dissipated.  
By the heat of morning,  
By the rising sun  
By the new day.

## Snowflakes

Falling so softly,  
like thieves in the frozen night.  
They steal the city.

## Dad: Part One

*We're worried about you.*  
This is how he always starts.  
It's always late  
Just me and Dad  
And a plate

Of cookies, that's always there too

For our little heart to hearts  
I usually end up crying  
Eventually  
Sometimes without even trying.

*We thought things would be different here, new  
But we're back playing our old roles*  
He's right, things haven't changed  
He and Mom still think  
I'm deranged.

We are the same, us four, that's true  
A family photograph full of holes  
Secrets kept from one another  
Hunger, fear, doubt, loneliness  
And a missing brother.

*Is this something you're working through?*  
He means my painting, like he guesses  
I've been molested or hurt.  
I haven't, except by  
That word I'm trying to subvert

Poor Dad, he hasn't got a clue  
It's just that I'm addicted to these messes  
Always looking for a way  
To screw up, fall down, wash out  
I've become my own cliché.

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From **Audacious**, Orca Book Publishers 2013

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### About this week's author: G.S. (Gabrielle) Prendergast

Gabrielle Prendergast is an award winning writer, teacher and designer living in Vancouver, Canada. She writes picture books and middle grade and YA contemporary and historical as Gabrielle Prendergast. Her science fiction and fantasy is published as G.S. Prendergast. She has won the Monte Miller Award, the Westchester Fiction Award and The BC Book Prize as well as being nominated or short-listed for numerous other honors. Gabrielle has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia and has taught writing at Sydney University, San Francisco State University, UBC, Royal Canadian College and at numerous conferences. [www.gsprendergast.com](http://www.gsprendergast.com)



# Writers to Readers Weekly Study Guide



## Comprehension Questions:

1. Poetry often uses metaphors and similes. Find examples in these poems.
2. Dad: Part One has a unique rhyme scheme. Using the ABCDE method, outline this rhyme scheme.
3. In the poem *Snowflakes*, who “steals the city”?
4. How many members are there in the narrator’s family?
5. Find an example of alliteration and an example of internal rhyme.

## Discussion/Essay Questions:

1. Sunsets are a frequent feature in poetic writing. Discuss why this might be.
2. The poem *Snowflakes* describes an outdoor scene in haiku form—seventeen syllables. Write the same scene in two or three paragraphs.
3. Do you think the narrator has a good relationship with father? Why or why not?

## Vocabulary – Use each word in a sentence

Bisect	Deranged	Cliché
Dissipated	Subvert	Condensation

Books  
By  
This  
Week’s  
Author:

