

Cabin in the Woods

Writer's Analysis

This was the first poem I wrote for the workshop, and so it was the first poem I had written for a school assignment in over two years. I had no idea what to expect from myself, knowing that I was a writer, but not being familiar with very much poetry. I appreciated the exercise for it, imagining concepts in our mind and basing the poem off one of those images, as a good subject matter to give me a poem I would enjoy writing.

The thing that surprised me in the process of this poem occurred largely as I first started writing it. I began by simply listing a whole bunch of words and in that list choosing words of various emotions, such as “forest, silence, moss, wood, decay, empty, abandoned, etc.” And what I had originally envisioned for the first draft ended up completely different than that abandoned and rotting cabin quietly sitting ignored in the woods.

Another remarkable thing about the poem as I revised it was that I had a moment of clarity where I understood what exactly the path to getting a finished draft would look like. I knew that the path would not be undertaken in just this workshop, but that it would mean revising various parts of the poem at different times, sometimes changing one part back to its original wording as another part changed and so on.

As for what I focused on revising in this poem, after getting feedback from the workshop, I worked on developing the abandoned tools sitting next to the cabin. Then in later drafts, I began to work on how I presented that information, which also required me to play around with how the tools were positioned visually.

In future drafts, I think the next thing to do is to play around with the sensory details of the woods, and continuing experimenting with the cabin's sensory surroundings.