

A field of dark grey umbrellas, with one yellow umbrella in the foreground, slightly to the right of the center. The umbrellas are arranged in a grid-like pattern, receding into the distance. The yellow umbrella is the only one of its color, making it stand out.

Cracking the Concrete

Reading & Writing Contemporary Poetry

with Kyle McKillop

Acknowledgement

Links

- **Slides:** <https://tinyurl.com/BCTELAConcSlides>
- **Files:** <https://tinyurl.com/BCTELAConcrete>

Shape

- Introductions
- Background knowledge
- Reading & thinking
- Modelling & writing
- Sharing

Objectives

- I can understand and share the techniques of modern poetry
- I can use these techniques to joyfully guide generation, drafting, and revision with my students

Introductions

Background knowledge

Writers? Readers?

Poetic strengths/areas of comfort?

Hopes for today?

What makes a poem *good*?

Reading & thinking

Good poems are often an experience of:

- Topic
- Image & wisdom
- Metaphor & other devices
- Form
- Aesthetics

"Tyler, You're Terrific" by Shaun Robinson

Tyler, you're useless. Your hands hang off
the ends of your arms like a couple of starfish
you found on the beach. When you argue with
the waitress, you sputter like a shaken Coke.
She calls you "dear," the same word strangers
use when they write trying to sell you
collectible coins. Pay attention, Tyler. A flamingo
without its o is just flaming.

Library books and babies both have
due dates, Tyler, but don't confuse them.
And don't assume a fire drill is a tool
that bores through steel with flame.
It's an orderly exit from a building, Tyler.
If I tell you to tear up your life
and start over, remember some things
are made whole by destruction. A kernel
of popcorn is useless until it explodes.
And Tyler, if I tell you you're terrific,
remember the root of the word is terror.

Reading

With a group:

- Choose one of the poems in the booklet.
- Read & discuss
- Share out briefly

Faye Brownlie's questions:

- What do you notice?
- Why is that important?

Modelling

Let's make a poem!

Writing

Your turn!

Sharing

Find someone in the room. Share somewhere between one and all of your words with your audience.

Thank you!

Please stay in touch!

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(or visit the website)