



Center for Leadership & Educational Equity

My Papa's Waltz A Focused Protocol

Developed by Jill Hudson.

Norms

- Respect diverse opinions
- Equal airtime
- Listen to understand
- Non-judgmental

Process

Allow two readings of the poem; after **each** question allow for 2 minutes of thinking.

1. What do you see in this poem? (10 Minutes)
2. What is the most important word to you? (5 Minutes)
3. How does the poem make you feel? (5 Minutes)
4. What insight does this poem and this discussion give you? (5 Minutes)
5. Debrief norms, protocol, and lessons learned about diverse opinions on a single text. (10 Minutes)

My Papa's Waltz

The whiskey on your breath
Could make a small boy dizzy;
But I hung on like death:
Such waltzing was not easy.

We romped until the pans
Slid from the kitchen shelf;
My mother's countenance
Could not unfrown itself.

The hand that held, my wrist
Was battered on one knuckle;
At every step you missed
My right ear scraped a buckle.

You beat time on my head
With a palm caked hard by dirt.
Then waltzed me off to bed
Still clinging to your shirt.