

## **Litany Love: Created by Ginnye Cubel**

This exercise should take **60-90** minutes. Write a love poem (to a person, an object, a fictional character, a place) that uses anaphora (the repetition of a single word or phrase). The poem shouldn't merely list off characteristics of that person/place/thing but should try to tell a story as well. For example, what is the relationship between the narrator and the subject? Is it a tumultuous love affair? A sweet one? Be creative and descriptive!

Have the students use the list to create a narrative/storyline. Make sure each student's list is at least twenty points long and then have them pick from their favorites to use for their own poems. Also, try to have the students utilize comedy and the element of surprise as shown in Kim Addonizio's poem "Forms of Love."

- Variation: students all write a litany using the same anaphora. Anaphora can be assigned by instructor or constructed by the group as a whole.
- Variation: students all write a litany based on the same subject. Assigned by the instructor or decided on by the group as a whole.

Here is an example by Kim Addonizio.

### **Forms of Love** by Kim Addonizio

I love you but I'm married.  
I love you but I wish you had more hair.  
I love you more.  
I love you more like a friend.  
I love your friends more than you.  
I love how when we go into a mall and classical muzak is playing, you can always name the composer.  
I love you, but one or both of us is/are fictional.  
I love you but "I" am an unstable signifier.  
I love you saying, "I understand the semiotics of that" when I said, "I had a little personal business to take care of."  
I love you as long as you love me back.  
I love you in spite of the restraining order.  
I love you from the coma you put me in.  
I love you more than I've ever loved anyone, except for this one guy.  
I love you when you're not getting silly and stupid.

I love how you get me.  
I love your pain, it's so competitive.  
I love how emotionally unavailable you are.  
I love you like I'm a strange backyard and you're running from the cops, looking for a place to stash your gun.  
I love your hair.  
I love you but I'm just not that into you.  
I love you secretly.  
I love how you make me feel like I'm a monastery in the desert.  
I love your mother, she's the opposite of mine.  
I love you and feel a powerful spiritual connection to you, even though we've never met.  
I love your tacos! I love your stick deodorant!  
I love your extravagant double takes!  
I love your mother, even though I'm nearly her age!  
I love everything about you except your hair.  
If it weren't for that I know I could really, really love you.