

Secret Prompt – Luke Wortley

The goal here is to draw inspiration from real life and drive a poem or story with the built-in tension of a secret. Here's what to do:

1. Everyone writes down a secret they have (It can be anything, but let's try to impress upon them that it should be appropriate to a certain extent and we can screen the secrets if need be), or if a student is uncomfortable, they can make one up. Impress upon the group that it might be a good idea to camouflage their writing or to use things that not everyone would know. Even seemingly innocuous secrets can lead to some really cool writing.

2. Secrets are shuffled up and passed back out to the group; everyone should have a completely new secret (not his or her own!).

4. Write a story or a poem in which the main character has this secret. Describe the situation and what happened directly before or what happens directly after.

Consider answering these questions: Who else in the piece knows about this? Does the main character ever tell anyone? Do they feel guilty? Who else would this affect if it were told? When did this happen?