

Rediscovering Sylvia Plath

Writing Exercise – Session 5

- Take one of the poems that you wrote during this class (if you didn't write any poems, feel free to use a poem you've drafted in the past)
- Pick one of Plath's poems that we talked about in class and follow her revision strategy
- As an example, you could use "Daddy" and read your own poem, looking for ways to modulate the intensity in your poem upward, either by toning down or amping up your specific word choices
- As another example, you could use "Sheep in Fog" and scrape away as much of the obvious and palpable emotional language--basically strip the poem down so that what's left is the fog
- As another example, you could use "Stings" and take your final two stanzas and rewrite them three times, sharpening the language again and again