



This writing prompt was developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Rickey Laurentiis](#) and [Maurice Manning](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Writing Prompt:

In his interview, Rickey Laurentiis writes, “For me, it’s important to remember that place in poetry is as much, if not more of, an *imagined* space as it is an “actual” description or representation of that place.” Of his “homeplace,” Maurice Manning writes, “We all live in a specific place. What matters is if we notice, if we pay attention and learn to value our place.” Think about a place that is important to you. Perhaps it is the house where you grew up, a place where you created a favorite memory, or a space of quiet contemplation.

Write a draft in which you try to imagine this place as richly as possible. Make decisions about aspects of the place you will describe, aspects you will seek to represent, and aspects that will remain, for your reader, merely imagined. Experiment with using an epigraph that designates a specific place and see how the poem is affected.