



These discussion questions were developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Carl Phillips](#) and [Kim Addonizio](#). For more information, please see [www.lightboxpoetry.com](http://www.lightboxpoetry.com).

## Discussion Questions:

- What do you see as the argument of “What Do Women Want?” How does this correspond to your experience of society’s expectations about women?
- Why do you think Addonizio chooses to spend the majority of the poem “First Kiss,” which is written to a beloved, describing a moment with her young child? What kind of effect does this have on you as a reader?
- How does the tattoo function as a metaphor in “First Poem for You”? Do you see the poem’s interest in permanence playing out elsewhere in Kim Addonizio’s work?
- Other than poetry, what genres and traditions are evoked by “Half-Hearted Sonnet”? How does the poem transform those genres, and how are those genres transformed by the poem?
- Kim Addonizio describes the power of sonnets in her Lightbox interview: “I found—and find—the sonnet to be a really capacious form, despite its small size. Or weirdly, maybe because of it. You have to propose something cogently and quickly, and then there’s that built in turn, or swerve; you can’t just describe something for fourteen lines.” Both “Half-Hearted Sonnet” and “First Poem for You” are sonnets. Compare how these sonnets perform the volta, or “swerve,” of the sonnet.
- There’s a way in which “Beginning With His Body and Ending in a Small Town” draws upon traditional love poetry’s description of the beloved. How do you feel about the juxtaposition of these traditional references with the grittier, more explicit elements in the poem? Are they shocking in the context of this poem, or are they simply more visceral, contemporary, newly beautiful?