



This writing prompt was developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Carl Phillips](#) and [Kim Addonizio](#). For more information, please see [www.lightboxpoetry.com](http://www.lightboxpoetry.com).

### **Writing Prompt (courtesy of Kim Addonizio):**

This is one I made up after reading Tony Hoagland's poem "Dickhead," about adolescent boys. It ends, "I made a word my friend." You start out laughing, or maybe being a little offended, and by the end of the piece you're in a different place with it all. That's the exercise: to take a charged, loaded word and take us into that word and maybe make us feel differently at the end. Sarah Maclay wrote a poem called "Whore" that does just that. I did "Fuck," and some of my students wrote poems with titles like "Great Tits," and "Kike." The room gets really charged when everyone is tossing out suggestions for titles. It's a great lesson in how powerful language really is.