



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:

Love poems in the English tradition often employ strategies such as direct address to the beloved, description of the beloved's physical features, song-like qualities and refrains, or extended metaphors that involve or implicate the beloved in some way.

To see how poets have used these strategies in the past, you may want to read through some of these classic love poems: "[The Passionate Shepherd to His Love](#)" by Christopher Marlowe; "[Sonnet 130](#)" by Shakespeare; "[To His Coy Mistress](#)" by Andrew Marvell; "[To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time](#)" by Robert Herrick; "[The Flea](#)" by John Donne.

Using one of the traditional strategies of love poetry, write a contemporary love poem that draws on your own life and experiences. Give some thought to which traditional strategy would be most useful given what you want to explore about love in your poem.