



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

**Writing Prompt (courtesy of C. Dale Young):**

Write a poem using the future tense. American poetry is obsessed with the present tense and its immediacy, but each tense carries its own power. There are things you can do using past tense that are not possible in present tense. And of the tenses, future tense is least used. So, I would prompt a student to try writing a poem entirely in future tense. One might not get a poem out of it, but it is likely to fire some new synapses in the brain and possibly even show a tool one can use later in writing other poems.