



These discussion questions were developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Mary Jo Salter](#) and [Eduardo C. Corral](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Discussion Questions:

- How do these poems document, catalog, and make sense of autobiographical details and memories?
- What are the controlling metaphors of “[Bed of Letters](#)”? Of “[The Buttonhook](#)”? Trace how the metaphors evolve and intertwine in the poem.
- Mary Jo Salter mentions in her interview the “risks” that writing requires. What have you risked in order to write, personally as well as artistically? How are these risks related?
- Compare versions of an immigrant experience in Salter’s “[The Buttonhook](#)” and Corral’s “[In Colorado My Father Scoured and Stacked Dishes](#).”
- Mary Jo Salter and Eduardo C. Corral have mentioned several older poets as influences on their work. Find a poem from one of these poets online. Discuss how you see the older poet’s influence manifesting in the living poet’s sample of work.
- Both Mary Jo Salter’s and Eduardo C. Corral’s poems seem to deal with the theme of inheritance. How do these poems explore the ways we inherit aspects of our identities? Where do these inheritances come from? How do they affect us as poets and as people?