



This writing prompt was developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Jericho Brown](#) and [Malachi Black](#). For more information, please see [www.lightboxpoetry.com](http://www.lightboxpoetry.com).

### **Writing Prompt:**

In this prompt, you will write a poem of address to an abstraction. This might be an emotion, such as happiness, a complex concept, such as relativity, or a deity from any school of religious belief. As you write, you must imagine your abstraction as a listener, as Malachi Black writes, as a “recipient adequately equipped to receive, comprehend, or internalize” what it is that you say to them in the poem. Practice at least two different modes of address in your poem. Command the abstraction to do something. Ask the abstraction a question. Praise the abstraction for what it is, or lament it for what it is not. Reflect on what kind of address most effectively communicates what you want from your abstraction.