



This writing prompt was developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Jamaal May](#) and [David Yezzi](#). For more information, please see [www.lightboxpoetry.com](http://www.lightboxpoetry.com).

### **Discussion Questions:**

- How does David Yezzi capture the peculiarities of his speaker's voice in "Schnauzer"? What do you learn about the speaker of this poem from how his voice appears in the poem—not only what the speaker says, but how the speaker says it?
- In what ways does "Schnauzer" fit David Yezzi's definition of the dramatic monologue that he gives in his Lightbox interview? How would you describe the "dramatic situation" of his poems?
- What strategies does David Yezzi use in "Dirty Dan" to make the poem seem like a story really being told to someone, and not simply dialogue in a story? What do you think is the difference between a poem and a monologue in a play?
- What role does the metaphor of the radio play in "Lazy"? How is that metaphor in agreement and in tension with the poem's form—lineation, stanza, sound?
- The poem, "Cough," is constructed from a variety of pieces of language from different realms—which realms of language do you notice in the poem? How do these seemingly disparate registers of language interact in the poem?
- Read the selection of David Yezzi poems we've linked on the Lightbox website. What traditional, or received, forms do you notice? Which formal elements can you describe in his poems? Take your observations a step further and begin to consider how David Yezzi's formal practice helps to enact the content of his poems?