

Interpreting a Poem

Writing Workshop

Drafting and Elaboration

The paragraph below is from an interpretation of the poem “Woman with Flower” by Naomi Long Madgett. Develop the paragraph further by adding ideas, examples, and by following the Suggestions for Elaboration. Use the Reader’s Notebook and your own ideas. Write your new paragraph on a clean sheet of paper.

Draft

I’m not sure if “Woman with Flower” by Naomi Long Madgett is really about growing plants. Some of the lines make me think it’s about how people grow up. I’m not a plant, but I have some of the problems the poem talks about. Parents should read this poem.

Suggestions for Elaboration

- State a reason why the poem might not just be about growing plants.
- Add a quote to show how the poem could be about people growing up.
- Give an example of how the student who interpreted the text can relate to the problems in the poem.
- Offer a reason for why parents should read the poem.

READER’S NOTEBOOK

■ The poet says that she wouldn’t coax the plant. ■ Usually, people, rather than plants, do not want to be coaxed. ■ The line, “Such watchful nurturing may do it harm” suggests that too much protection, especially over children, can be a bad thing. ■ Madgett writes that the plant needs to be left alone to find its own way. ■ The student who wrote this interpretation sometimes feels that parents pry and make kids do things they shouldn’t have to do, like taking piano lessons. ■ Parents don’t always understand that children, like the plant in the poem, need some freedom to follow their own paths. ■ If they read this poem, parents might see the point of view of their growing “plants.”