

Mapping the Neighborhood*

1. Draw a map of a childhood neighborhood you remember well. Be as detailed as you'd like. Sketch in the houses, streets, trees, and other important landmarks.
2. Mark with an "X" places on the map where something significant happened to you.
3. For each experience you marked with an "X," list one detail for each of the five senses: sight, smell, sound, taste, and touch.
4. Choose one of the experiences from the map, and using your list of the five senses, write a five to ten-line poem.

*This exercise was first introduced to me by Ken Brewer, my first poetry mentor and Utah's second poet laureate.