Ned Snell

Getting Started

1. Go to one of your anthologies and select a strong poem that speaks to you.
2. Choose 12 to 15 words from the poem, words that jump out at you (nouns, verbs & adjectives). Make these words the framework of your new poem.
3. Make a list of rhymes for each word you have chosen, true rhymes and especially slant rhymes. As you write/create, you will see the poem take over and lead you places you never imagined.
4. Your poem will resemble in no way the poem from which you chose the words.
5. For a fine example of slant rhyme, look at Sylvia Plath’s “Black Rook in Rainy Weather,” written in rimas dissolutus, where each line of a non-rhyming stanza rhymes with its corresponding line in subsequent stanzas, in this case abcd eabcd eabcd, etc.