

## Guidelines for Writing a Poem in 2 Voices

Based on the work of Paul Fleishman and with inspiration from his book, *Joyful Noise: Poems in Two Voices*, 2004

The "poems" in this book are designed to be read aloud by two readers at once, sometimes by one voice alone, sometimes by both in unison, sometimes with two different lines read simultaneously. This format works well to explore two perspectives on the same identity, such as the life of a queen bee and a worker bee.

### Process of writing 2 voices

The gathering of thoughts to create 2 voices offers an opportunity to explore different perspectives on an idea, identity or experience. Here are some suggestions to get your started.

Choose a focus of your exploration. It might be the same experience from different cultural or socio-economic perspectives, such as immigration, 2<sup>nd</sup> language learning, views of education, and so forth.

Consider different ways the experience might be perceived, depending on one's relationship to power and privilege.

Start with something both perspectives share and have them each say that line at the same time.

Then branch off to explore the possible different ways they might think about their experience.

After a few lines, come back to a new shared statement and then branch off again.

Voice 1		Voice 2
	← Something shared →	
	← different perspectives →	
	← Something shared →	
	← different perspectives →	

### Reading of poem

Read the lines that are shared together at the same time.

Read the lines that offer different perspectives one after another.