

SECRET LIFE OF ROY G. BIV *

STEP 1 Pick a color that you see where you live, inside or outdoors.

STEP 2 Practice seeing this color in different ways. Think about what you notice about it first. How does the color make you feel? Are there many shades? What kinds of things does this color bring up in your mind? Write down 10 items you find or you can think of that are this color.

STEP 3 Interview your color! This step calls for your imagination. There isn't a right answer -- you can write down anything that seems right for you when you think about this color. With this kind of thinking, we'll be able to describe the color in more complicated ways than just comparing it to something (for example, we're going to write stronger descriptions than *red like an apple* or *white like a fluffy cloud*). Imagine you are interviewing this color, like a person. What would they say in response to these questions?

- How does your color move?
- In what season was the color born?
- What place(s) can the color take you?
- What time of day or night does the color like?
- What does your color wish for?
- What is hidden behind the color?
- What does your color sound like?
- Does your color have a taste? A texture?
- Who are the color's friends?
- What shape does the color have?
- What songs does the color like?
- Is your color afraid of anything?
- What 3 other things *aren't* your color?
- Does your color hold anything inside of it?
- Other questions that you want to ask your color!

STEP 4 Now you've really spent some time thinking deeply about and with your color! Write a poem with your new descriptions. You can try a list poem, turning each of your interview question responses into a line of the poem, or you can choose your own form. Whichever way you choose to write about your color, imagine you are describing it for someone who has never seen it before: this will help your readers experience the color (and the feelings it brings up) in new ways.

See two examples below!

FREESTYLE

INTERVIEW: GREEN

How does your color move?

Green is spritely; it's always changing and hopping from one place to the next.

In what season was the color born?

Green was born in the spring, when all sorts of new life and growth started to bloom.

What place(s) can the color take you?

In the spring and summer, Green can take you to an open field or forest path. In the fall, Green will wear the mask of a monster and take you trick-or-treating. In the winter, Green will fill a cup of tea and warm you up from the snow outside.

What time of day or night does the color like?

Green doesn't have a preference between day or night. In the day, Green gets to be more serene and peaceful. At night, Green becomes an electric glow. Both are parts of Green's personality.

What does your color wish for?

Green wishes that they could learn how to cast magic spells.

What is hidden behind the color?

Hidden behind Green is the careful balance of excitement and serenity.

What does your color sound like?

When Green is happy, they sound like tinkling bells. But when Green is angry, they sound like a hissing snake.

Does your color have a taste? A texture?

Green will taste either earthy, bitter, or sour, depending on what form it takes.

What shape does the color have?

Green prefers organic shapes to solid ones, and will fit inside different molds. Think like jello.

What songs does the color like?

Green likes instrumental music, especially string instruments and piano.

Is your color afraid of anything?

Green is afraid of really loud noises, like thunderstorms and fireworks. (But don't tell anyone or Green will be embarrassed!)

POEM

Green

From the summer's swaying fields
and the wind-blown laughing leaves,
to winter's string of twinkling lights
and steaming mugs of tea.

In autumn you taste like granny smiths
plucked from the orchard trees,
and every spring, as new growth blooms,
you buzz with the chorus of bees.

And even when I close my eyes
and drift soundly off to dream,
still I feel the electric glow
of your vibrant color: green.

LIST POEM

INTERVIEW: PURPLE

How does your color move?

Like a graceful scarf flowing

In what season was the color born?

Spring

What places can the color take you?

Disneyland at night or starry nights of the sky

What time of day or night does the color like?

Nighttime

What does your color wish for?

Outer space!

What does your color sound like?

Twinkling chimes

Who are the color's friends?

Blue and Black

Does your color hold anything inside of it?

Blue and Red

Is your color afraid of anything?

Orange

What is your color's favorite song?

Purple Rain

What is your color's favorite activity?

Being a part of the sunset

What does your color taste like?

Super sweet grape juice

What does your color feel like?

A velvet robe

POEM

Purple

My color holds Blue and Red

My color moves like graceful scarves
flowing

My color is Purple

Purple was born in the season of
Spring

Purple enjoys nighttime, especially
the cold breeze

Purple wishes for outer space to
come to us

Purple sounds like twinkling chimes

Blue and Black are Purple's friends
because they are similar to each other

Purple's favorite song is Purple
Rain

Purple is afraid of Orange because
it's so bright and opposite

Purple's favorite activity is being
a part of a sunset

Purple tastes like super sweet
grape juice

Purple feels like a velvet robe

Purple can take you to the starry
nights of the sky, through a field of flowers, or
Disneyland at night

Purple holds Blue and Red

*This prompt was adapted from an 826michigan workshop designed by writer Cammie Finch