

34th parallel



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I write poetry when talking isn't enough.

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I write poetry when talking isn't enough. I wrote Rapid after having a conversation that turned into an argument with one of my daughters. I can't remember what the conversation was about but I do remember how I felt afterward. It was not anger or frustration. The poem didn't materialize because I was sad or hurt. Instead, I was motivated to measure the growth of my relationship with her and my other two children. Their toddler years passed by so quickly. I thought about how communication



traversed the distant mind of developing teenagers and how (years later) our friendships developed. My writing is the deconstruction of daily conflicts and achievements. Writing breaks down the associations I have with others and examines the workable parts that should be kept and those that can be recycled. I dream of the day when I have created an adequate amount of poetry for a book. This future book will effectively handle topics dealing with human connection and sensitivity in a socially responsible manner.

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Once	Ago						
	I ran	After	You.				
					To fly		
Then	From	There				Learn	
	I ran	Into	You.				
							I'll
Later	on						
	I ran	With	You.				When
Soon							
	I'll					That's	
		Run			You		
			Ahead	of			

I wrote this in a not so traditional format. I chose to use a table.

For me, writing a poem in a table helps to build a visual representation of the piece. I use a table to hold my words in much the same way as a construction worker uses scaffolding.

The words I select are arranged and presented on the page in a way that gives you another layer of experience with my piece. I have a certain relationship with the words I choose to write and what they can visually represent on the page. I take into consideration what I want to give you to look at and how that connects with what I am giving you to read.

When I write a poem I am looking to write the least amount of words that I can. The table becomes my tool—where the words are placed, the punctuation (or lack of), and also where the page physically comes to an end. *Rapid* deals with motion, growth, and transcendence, and working in a table helps me give these themes a structure.