

## Group piece workshop - Long Metaphor workshop

### PREP & PRE-WORK

#### GOALS

- Reflect on their life
- Change/undo events they had no power over
- Make a group poem

#### MATERIALS

- Jack Gilbert- Michiko Dead
- Paper & pencil

\*Langston Kerman - "This Feels Permanent" is also a good choice for this prompt

### WORKSHOP

#### Read:

- Jack Gilbert- Michiko Dead
- He manages like somebody carrying a box that is too heavy, first with his arms underneath. When their strength gives out, he moves the hands forward, hooking them on the corners, pulling the weight against his chest. He moves his thumbs slightly when the fingers begin to tire, and it makes different muscles take over. Afterward, he carries it on his shoulder, until the blood drains out of the arm that is stretched up to steady the box and the arm goes numb. But now the man can hold underneath again, so that he can go on without ever putting the box down.

#### List:

- 10 of the most important events that have ever happened to you,
- pick one, 10 things that that thing is like

#### Write:

- Using one of these similes, write a poem about the event without mentioning it.

#### Read Around:

- Ask students to read their poem, then pass their poem to the left so their classmate can read it. Insist that if someone doesn't want a classmate to read their poem, then maybe it shouldn't be turned into a group poem/ LTAB poem.

- Ask students listening (even if they're reading) to write down lines they like/relate to/ sounds like what they wrote and the teammates that wrote them.
- Ask students to read around the lines and teammates they vibed with the most.

### **EXPANSION PACK**

Break out into groups:

- Delegate a scribe for the group (writes down lines group agrees on)
- Share poems again, this time a stanza/paragraph at a time within their groups
- Make notes on the lines they like/ lines that remind them of what they wrote/lines that could make a good hook.
- Encourage students to find an order to their stanzas and begin writing their group piece