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# Arriving Together: A Poetry Pulse That Resets the Room

Professor Desi Di Nardo

Ignite Funded Project: Imagination and Innovation in Education:  
Poetry Pedagogy to Spark Engagement in Higher Learning

# Land Acknowledgement

George Brown Polytechnic is located on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and other Indigenous peoples who have lived here over time.

We are grateful to share this land as treaty people who learn, work and live in the community with each other.

[Learn more about our land acknowledgement.](#)

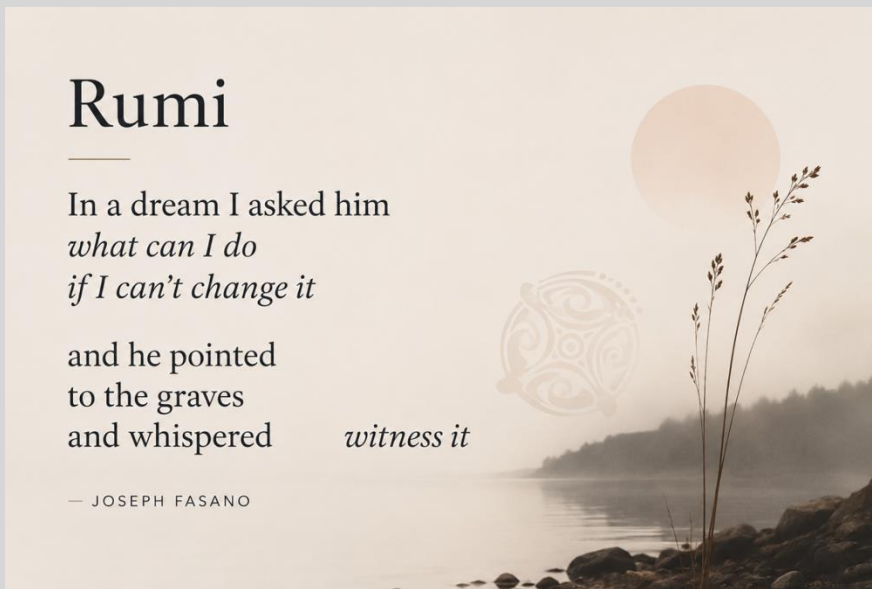


## Rumi

In a dream I asked him  
*what can I do*  
*if I can't change it*

and he pointed  
to the graves  
and whispered *witness it*

— JOSEPH FASANO



# AGENDA

A POETRY RITUAL FOR ENGAGEMENT,  
REFLECTION, AND RESILIENT LEARNING.

- 1 OPENING PULSE**  
*Attention in a distracted age.*
- 2 THE POEM AS PRACTICE**  
*Close reading, deep thinking.*
- 3 POETRY ACROSS DISCIPLINES**  
*Poetry beyond English classrooms.*
- 4 CREATING TOGETHER**  
*Writing, reflection, connection.*
- 5 COLLECTIVE MEANING-MAKING**  
*Sharing possibilities for practice.*
- 6 CLOSING REFLECTION**  
*From insight to action.*



PAUSE



INQUIRE



IMAGINE



CONNECT



CREATE



REFLECT

— Learning begins when we arrive. —

## Arriving Together:



## A Poetry PULSE That Resets the Room

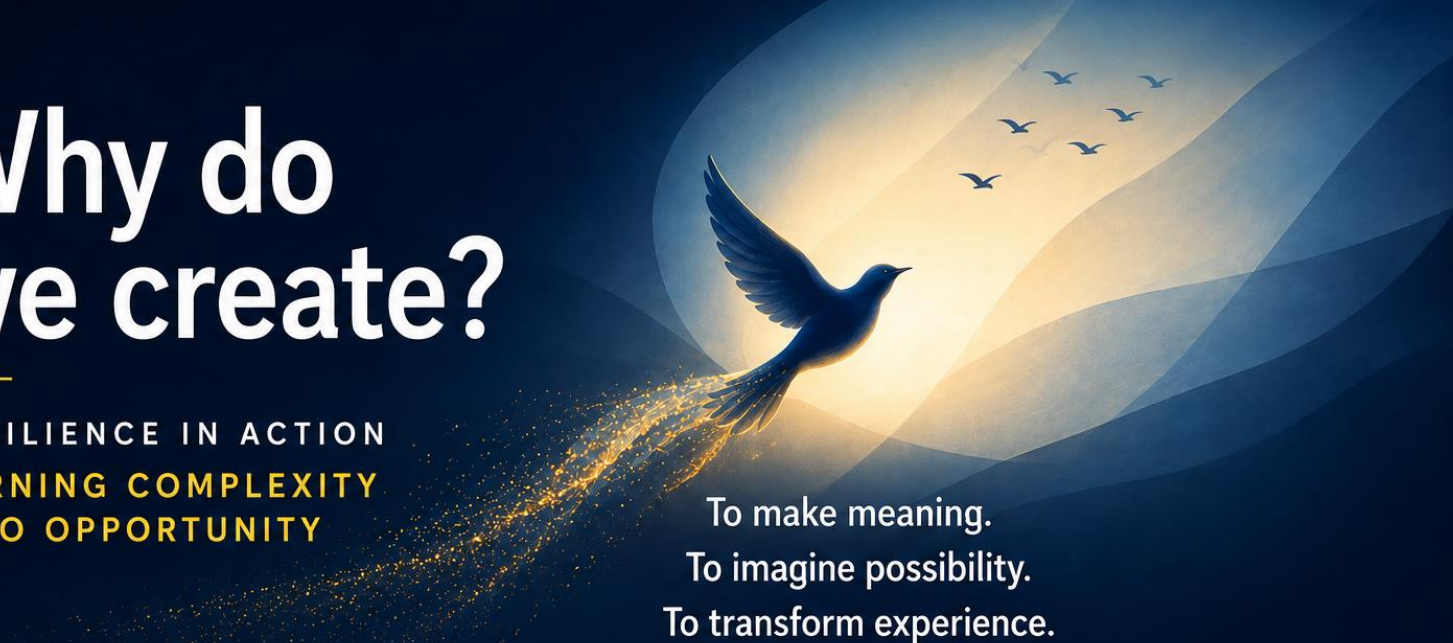
At EvolvED 2026, poetry becomes the PULSE of resilience—turning the complexity of teaching into opportunities for transformation.

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# Making Meaning: *The Human Response to Complexity*

## Why do we create?

RESILIENCE IN ACTION  
TURNING COMPLEXITY  
INTO OPPORTUNITY



To make meaning.  
To imagine possibility.  
To transform experience.



### MAKE MEANING

Understanding  
ourselves and  
the world.



### TRANSFORM EXPERIENCE

Turning complexity  
into possibility.



### MAKE THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

Giving shape to thoughts,  
emotions, and truths.



### BUILD BELONGING

Connecting through  
shared stories.



### IMAGINE WHAT COULD BE

Expanding the boundaries  
of possibility.

IMAGINE • CREATE • CONNECT • TRANSFORM

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# RESILIENCE IN ACTION: TURNING COMPLEXITY INTO OPPORTUNITY

# LOVE poem

**WORDS CONNECT HEARTS** ♡

TURNING COMPLEXITY INTO CONNECTION.

RACISM FEMICIDE  
HOMOPHOBIA LOVE SILENCE  
HATE

love  
loveol  
loveol  
evol  
o  
|

— B. P. Nichols,  
from centering poem *Love*

**TALA MOTAZEDI**  
GBC PEN WRITER IN RESIDENCE

♡

*Rooted in Tala's message of love,  
a one-word poem became a catalyst for reflection, trust, and belonging.*

**RESILIENCE IN ACTION:** *Turning Complexity into Opportunities.* ♡



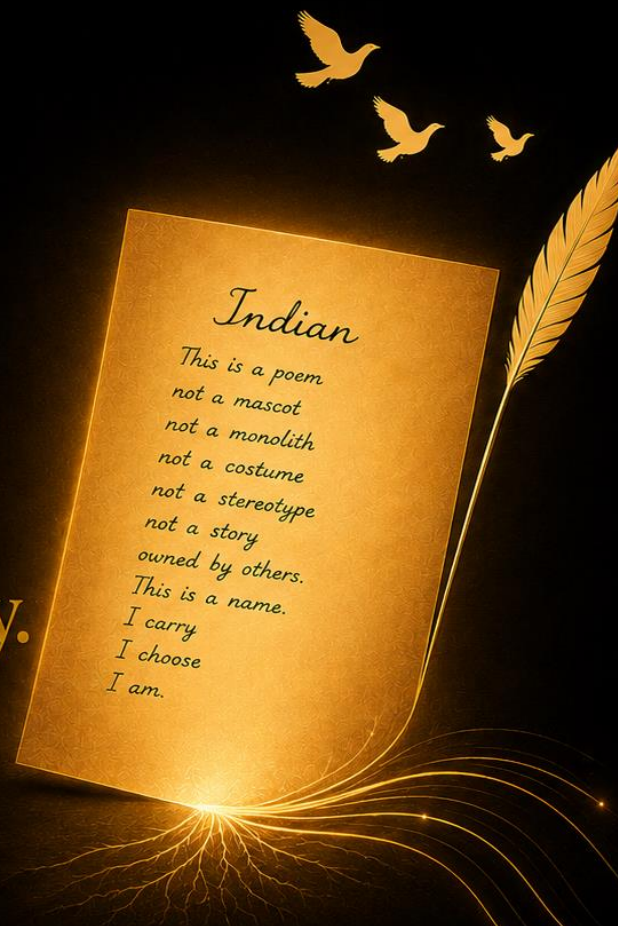
# THE SHAPE OF LANGUAGE, THE SHAPE OF SELF

How form shapes VOICE, IDENTITY, and BELONGING

POETRY PEDAGOGY

## Poetry IS A PRACTICE OF turning complexity into possibility.

Through the poem *Indian*, students engage language, identity, and belonging to transform reflection into meaningful action.



TLX *evolvED*

Teaching & Learning  
Exchange Conference



### ENCOUNTER

Meeting complexity.  
Stories, histories,  
tensions.



### REFLECT

Questioning  
assumptions.  
Attention and inquiry.



### REIMAGINE

Finding new  
possibilities.  
New perspectives  
emerge.



### BECOME

Transforming  
insight into action.  
Voice, dialogue, change.

COMPLEXITY • REFLECTION • POSSIBILITY • ACTION

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— POETRY AS RESILIENCE IN ACTION —

# Indian

Country Life wants a book  
and you've agreed to give them one,  
but the writing doesn't come.

So you force yourself  
by solemn oath  
to remain seated,  
leave only when you must,  
to check on the beaver,  
chop wood,  
fix something to eat.

You even erect a table beside the bunk  
so you can reach at all hours,  
jot down an idea,  
a word  
an image.  
And still nothing.

Inspiration  
that's what you need,  
so you turn to drink and before you know it  
you've got an empty bottle of vanilla extract  
hanging from a cord around your neck  
like some kind of broken charm.

— Poem by Armand Garnet Ruffo  
*Used with permission from the poet.*

What meanings emerge from this  
image of a “**broken charm**”?

## POETRY PEDAGOGY AT WORK

Resilience in  
Action: The  
Tension Between  
Erasure and  
Emergence

ORANGE SHIRT  
DAY

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# HOW WE ARRIVE:

## A POETRY Ritual to Reset the Room



click



... pulsing with promise. ...

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*Some visual elements were generated with AI*