

INSPIRATION THROUGH OBSERVATION

COMMON OBJECTS AROUND THE HOUSE

This is the method I used to write the book of poetry called *The Alligator in the Closet*. Every poem in the book was inspired by walking slowly around my house and making a list of what I saw or imagined there. Once I had my list, ideas for poems began to occur to me over the next several weeks.

FURNITURE _____

(Hint) You don't need to list everything, just those items that may have special meaning for you. For example, do you have a favorite chair? Where do you do your homework? How long have you had the same bed? Anything about your kitchen or dining room table that brings back memories?

PETS _____

CLOTHES _____

(Hint) Stick with clothes with special meaning. A shirt that's too big/small. A worn-out pair of shoes/jeans. A coat that's unbelievably ugly. Your good-luck pants.

FAMILY _____

(Hint) Be nice. These people may read what you write!

ACCESSORIES _____

(Hint) Look at pictures on the walls, tabletops, bedside stands, lamps, and figurines. Look for things you know something about or would like to know more about.)

KITCHEN _____

(Hint) This is one of the best rooms. It's full of utensils and cans and boxes and refrigerated food. All sorts of memories and experiences to choose from!

UNINVITED GUESTS _____

(Hint) Every house is also home to some characters we didn't invite in. Look hard enough, you'll probably spot a bug or two, maybe a teeny spider, an ant, a moth, perhaps a fly or even a wasp. Summer may bring gnats and other little pests that like to share your home.)

WHATEVER _____
