

Circle of Life Writer's Analysis

My initial reaction when I first had to revise this poem was uncertainty, because between the *Cabin in the Woods* and *Will's Hair*, this was the first poem we presented to the workshop that we did not get workshop feedback on (having only read these poems aloud to each other once), so I had to rely on our discussions of writing techniques to look at what I could improve.

The first revision I focused mainly on how the assignment had affected the poem (choose 7 words you don't recognize, and use them without looking them up). I did not look at if those words made the poem better or worse, but merely how they affected the poem, and by changing them, how the effect was different.

By the second revision I started thinking about specific word choice beyond just those seven words, like how each image was conjured to the mind, such as thinking about life as billowing golden wisps. I noticed rereading the drafts (especially the 2nd and 3rd drafts) that the tone of the narrative changes as word choice grows more refined. One example is my choice to "shadowy" to "phantom."

In future drafts, the focus will be on expanding the poem, and give more detail to some of those scenes and see specifically how they come visually to the reader, such as the "titanic battle" between light and shadow. I see expansion as being the next step for this poem.