

## Empty Christmas Writer's Analysis

The first thing I noticed about this poem as I sat down to put it into the portfolio, is that it was the first poem that I changed the name within the first couple drafts that I put together for the workshop. I also noticed that this was the poem that got critiqued the class period where we observed our “plateau of comfort” and pushed ourselves out of our new comfort zone.

I remember the main feedback I received on this poem was more emotion and more experiences rather than narrative. So with that in mind, I set forth on the revision draft. The second draft caught me by surprise: it turned much more depressing than what I had originally envisioned for the poem. I think that was in part, because I reduced the role of the family so it no longer took half of the poem, but served more as just one memory.

The other kinds of changes I put in the drafts of this poem are statements hinting at the speaker's feeling about the subject, such as setting up a happy memory and then saying, “alas no more.” I also added another specific character to the poem, in this case the speaker's brother and tied it back to the idea he's thinking back to happy times and revealing that the memory can never happen again.

Whether these changes that I made, and the change in title to reflect those changes, improved the poem is debatable, but I would like to think that as the poem and word choice evolved, the poem grew more emotionally charged. As I revise it in future drafts, having that emotion in the poem will give me something more than just mere images to play around with.