

Slampoem

What is a poetry slam?

What is slam poetry?

It is prose, spoken word, often free verse.

It is rhyme, rhythm, alliteration and articulation
dressed in the multilingual colors of the human experience,
spoken of our own free will,
creating a richly-hued tapestry
of intricately woven words.

Whether it be personal, profound, political or playful,
punctuated with pride, purpose, or open emotion,
it is the courage to declare our perceptions of truth
with the confidence of honest observations.

It is la lengua de los barrios,
the spicy slang of the streets,
the persistent hip-hop contemplations of rap,
the pulsing, peace-filled mantras of rastafarians.

Spoken word is freedom from feeling powerless and alone
because we know that, even if only in the smallest way,
our voices are being heard by someone, on some level.

It has been said that silence is the voice of complicity.

George Orwell said: "In a time of universal deceit
telling the truth is a revolutionary act."

Gandhi said: "That which you do may seem unimportant
but it is most important that you do it."

So I invite you to lend your voices to the worldsong.

Dance to the exuberant beat of our collective experience
and please, listen...

with an equal respect for each individual,
for the courage it takes
to put yourself and your innermost thoughts out there.

We all have a voice
and the ability to speak in all the colors of the spectrum.

Paint your words with passion,

Please, speak.