

Minister's Column: January 2021

What does it mean to be a People of Imagination?

Let's carve some time out of this dreary, isolating winter to use our imaginations. Let's write poetry together! I am told this is a common exercise for writers and poets: take apart a poem and create something completely new. It's easy:

Here's how:

1. Choose a relatively short poem
2. Cross out every other line,
3. Fill in the crossed-out lines with lines of your own.

You can stop there, or if your imaginative juices are flowing, you can keep going!

4. Take the new poem you've created, cross out the remaining original lines (leaving the ones you wrote)
5. Fill in the crossed-out lines with new ones of your own, making it a completely original poem.

For example:

<i>Step 1</i>	<i>Step 2</i>	<i>Step 3</i>
Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet eating her curds and whey. Along came a spider who sat down beside her and frightened Miss Muffet away.	Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet eating her curds and whey. Along came a spider who sat down beside her and frightened Miss Muffet away.	One snowy day, I sat on a tuffet, my imagination running wild. Along came a spider. Laughing, I took my cue and frightened Miss Muffet away.

<i>Step 4</i>	<i>Step 5</i>
One snowy day, I Sat on a tuffet, my imagination running wild. Along came a spider. Laughing, I took my cue and frightened Miss Muffet away.	One snowy day, I looked out the window, imagination running wild. A snowman suggested cocoa. Laughing, I took my cue and made us both a mug.

Try it! Use "Little Miss Muffet" or any other poem! Write a haiku! A sonnet! A six-line short story. Consider it an adventure for your imagination! Fun for the whole family!

Send your finished poems to me (minister@buffalouu.org) and we will laminate them and hang them on the climbing tree in the garden. Together we will create an outdoor poetry gallery to brighten up the new year.

Yours in faith and affection, Rev. Joan Montagnes