

PROMPT #1

Poems of Loss & Longing



“Looking for the Gulf Hotel”

The places we recall from childhood change over time, as do we. Remembrances of places as they once were become trips back in time. A town that died after the freeway bypass was built. A farmhouse that’s been reclaimed by nature. A quiet street next to a new nightclub.

In his poem, “Looking for The Gulf Motel,” poet Richard Blanco wants to recover the time when he was eight years old, his family intact, all of them on vacation in a place he can see clearly in his mind’s eye. The retrieval of that vacation, rich in detail, is a momentary escape from loss, the moment countered by reality.

Prompt:

Write a poem that recreates a location from the past in detail: indulge in evoking sense memory – the sounds, smells, colors, weather of the place. As you end your poem, give us a sense of whether your reverie brought you comfort or sadness.

Length:

Let the poem organically determine its length.

READ: “Looking for the Gulf Hotel”