

Serenity

by L. Alicia Lacy

The sky blushes. As the sun slowly begins to descend, its blue backdrop—a monochromatic slate of cerulean and cyan—begins to pop, awash with hues arching across the horizon. The evening sky transforms before my eyes, penetrated by pink paisleys curled up like kittens at the end of a day filled with curious play. Salmon streaks and tangerine tendrils caress a brilliant braid of yellow. Crimson kisses the sun on its sleepy head, sending it to bed beneath a halo of indigo. A smile overtakes my face as I am mesmerized by reverence and energized by innocence. Filled with gratitude for the beautiful brushstrokes before me, I sink into the wicker rocking chair and exhale deeply. Twilight will usher in the night, but for now, I am thankful for the vision to see and the wisdom simply to *be* in this moment.

Reflections

on writing “Serenity”

Inspired by the sunsets I admired on the shore of South Padre Island in my youth, I crafted this paragraph alongside my students during a descriptive writing lesson with our school librarian, who is a fellow OWP Teacher Consultant. Then, I took this draft through the writing process, using it as a model while my students did the same. I even invited our librarian to provide feedback and help me model peer conferencing.

In January 2021, I entered “Serenity” in OWP’s annual Write to Win contest, and it won the teacher descriptive paragraph competition. It is published in the 2021 anthology of winning writers.