



*On a trail as cold as the ice of December,
I mushed along, trying to remember.*

*That spring is warm with birds of song,
and blithesome days growing long.*

*Somewhere flowers are bursting through sod,
but not along the Iditarod.*

One element of writing that gives the author a great deal of flexibility is called persona. Persona is defined as the role that a person assumes. For instance, when a young child pretends to be an animal and starts to act as that animal would, the child is taking on the persona of that animal. When an author writes from the point of view of a character other than himself, the author is taking on the persona of something or someone else.

Think of some of the stories or poems you have read where the character telling the story is not the author, but is a persona that the author has assumed. In the example above the author assumes a persona other than himself.

Something to think about: How does poetry differ from other forms of writing?

This lesson plan was prepared by New York elementary school teacher Terry Burton.

The Assignment

"Poetry on the Path" is a language arts exercise that examines an element of poetic style. Write your own poem using the persona of someone or something else. Add the poem to your Learning Packet.

Editors Note:

Send samples of your poetry to the Iditarod Education Department for publication on our website. djohnson@iditarod.com