

Fall 2017

D-Ped Assignment Involving Solmaz Sharif's Look and the influence of digital platforms on contemporary poetry

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CRW 3321 Poetry II Assignment: *Look* by Solmaz Sharif
Instructor: Chelsea Dingman

For the last few weeks, we've focused on Solmaz Sharif's NBA-nominated collection, *Look*. We analyzed the effectiveness of erasure as a poetic form, and as paired with the content of her book (which describes the erasure of her culture and people in war).

1/ Please read the following article and interview with Sharif:

<http://www.thevolta.org/ewc28-ssharif-p1.html>

<http://www.divedapper.com/interview/solmaz-sharif/>

2/ Do some research. Please find one article that you can bring to the next class about this book concerning the craft elements or the structure. We will be discussing the effectiveness of a project book, of different forms of poetry that she employed, and of using the language from the Military Dictionary in a collection of poems.

3/ Google Sharif's poems: how many can you find online from this collection?

There are some things that just don't come across when formatted to fit a screen and this changes the reading of the text. Which poems are not online? Which poems are? Are the poems you can read online prose poems? Or are they lyric? Or both?

Why do you think this is?

4/ Google Rupi Kaur and Nayyirah Waheed, two of the "Instapoets" who gained fame from self-publishing on social media platforms. How does their work differ from Sharif's work? Write down concrete examples. What are they discussing: does the digital platform lend itself to the content of the poems? Why are the digital platforms that they are using a better forum for their work? How is their work affected by the "form" that it is created in? Like Sharif, are they using form to add another layer of meaning to their poems? Or is it simply a vehicle for self-expression?

5/ Post links to sample poems and articles that you want to discuss on the Discussion Board by Wednesday so that everyone can look them over. We will go over the findings together in class on Friday.

