

# EXPLORE

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## PROTEST POETRY

**Protest poetry** is poetry that aims to point out or reflect on problems within current events, circumstances, or issues.

## I N   G A L L E R Y   A C T I V I T Y

### **Sadiq** a poem by Brian Turner

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It should make you shake and sweat,  
nightmare you, strand you in a desert  
of irrevocable desolation, the consequences  
seared into the vein, no matter what adrenaline  
feeds the muscle its courage, no matter  
what god shines down on you, no matter  
what crackling pain and anger  
you carry in your fists, my friend,  
it should break your heart to kill.

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**After viewing the photographs** in *Selections from the Collection*, find one photograph that you connect or associate with Brian Turner's poem "Sadiq."

While in front of the image you have chosen, silently read "Sadiq" again. Think about how the poem relates to the image for you.

- Think about the connections you make between the photograph and the poem.
- Which lines in the poem stand out to you?
- Which words in those lines seem important?
- What words are evoked that are not in the poem?

Learn more: Visit [eastman.org/poetry](http://eastman.org/poetry) for more resources

# AT HOME ACTIVITY

## Writing Protest Poetry

“Poetry is not a luxury. It is a vital necessity of our existence. It forms the quality of the light within which we predicate our hopes and dreams toward survival and change, first made into language, then into idea, then into more tangible action. Poetry is the way we help give name to the nameless so it can be thought. The farthest horizons of our hopes and fears are cobbled by our poems, carved from the rock experiences of our daily lives.” —Audre Lorde

Now, **construct your own protest poem** on an issue you have strong feelings about—the climate, gun violence, food insecurity, immigration, health care, access to clean water, etc. **Take a photograph that connects the issue and poem.**

### Things to think about as you write:

- What tone, perspective, and voice do you want your poem to convey?
- How can you express both your opinion and your feelings about your opinion?
- What words emerge from your opinion? What words emerge from your feelings about your opinion?
- What are some resolutions to the issue you chose?
- Where do you find resources to support your resolutions?
- Investigate the poetry of Brain Turner and Audre Lorde, or research other poets writing protest poetry