

Use Metaphor and Poetry to Give Crow a Voice



“Everytime you express yourself there is someone who cannot, and they’ll need you, they’ll need your voice to speak for them”

Rick Bartow

Looking Back Crow, 2001, Etching by Rick Bartow

Metaphor: A word or phrase indicating an object or idea in place of another to suggest a likeness. Spend a full minute studying the drypoint etching *Looking Back Crow* by Rick Bartow. Get to know Crow, and then compose a one sentence answer to each question. When finished, you will have the outline of a poem about Crow. Use the outline to write a poem (which you could later make into a song). Describe Crow, but don’t use the word “Crow” in your outline. Use metaphors for each question (describe each answer without naming each thing). Speak for Crow, give Crow a voice, use your imagination.

1. Where does Crow live? (Describe the place without naming it)	
2. When did Crow arrive in this place? (Describe the time period without naming it)	
3. What is Crow looking back at? (Describe what you think Crow sees without writing the name of that thing)	
4. What do Crow’s feathers remind you of? (Describe what the feathers remind you of without naming that thing)	
5. How old is Crow? (Describe how old, but without using a number)	
6. Who are Crow’s people? (Describe what they look like without naming them- they can be beings other than Crows)	
7. What does Crow know? (Describe knowledge Crow keeps but don’t name it)	

Image Credit: Richard E. Bartow Trust, Looking Back Crow, 2001. Activity: Nanette Durbin