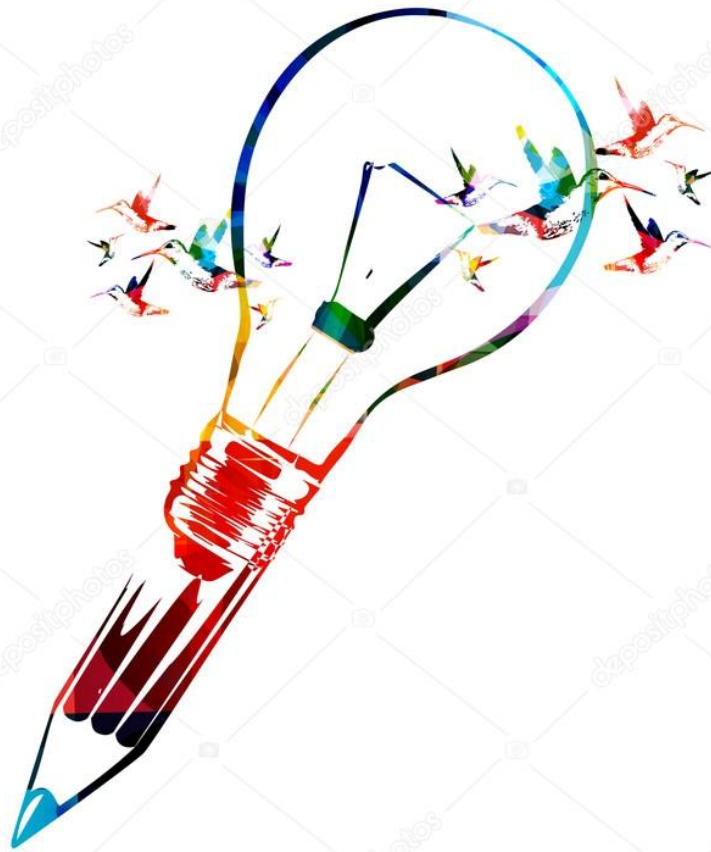


# Jordan Bailey



**MY CHAPBOOK SPRING 2021**

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## **Final Reflection:**

This creative writing class has been really good for me. Since most of my other classes are very theoretical and challenging, I feel like having this class not only fitted in with my schedule very nicely but benefited me also in terms of balancing out the workload that I had to do for all my classes in my final semester at City Tech. I commend professor Jessica Penner, for showing understanding to this situation of remote learning and I say thank you to her. This has been the most difficult semester for me as I struggled with keeping up with material from other classes, being at home where it was at times distracting, and having to sit in my room all day by myself mostly staring down at a screen. This experience was by no means a healthy lifestyle nor a proper college experience but I made it to the end and I am looking forward to graduating now. I remember choosing my classes last summer and looking at creative writing and was hesitant to register for it saying I was going to leave it for last to make my last semester less stressful. In retrospect, this was a very good idea to have this one class where I am not using any math nor solving or learning abstract problems. This course has really helped me this semester to cope with mental stress after going through a year plus worth of remote learning.

I have definitely taken away some experiences and key things that I now recognize about myself now. In creative writing I have written poems, memoirs, short stories and dialogues for the first time! Before this class, all I ever wrote was thematic essays, argumentative essays, persuasive essays, journals, summaries, book reports and other forms of formal writing. Getting this expository actually made me like the creative side of writing, to write stories, dialogues and more. I remember asking my mother roughly a year ago how she was able to write so well as her professors told her she should become a writer. She told me that when she was younger, her passion for writing came from writing made up stories and other fun and interesting material. Since she enjoyed it, she has written so much that she is now really good at putting her thoughts and emotions on paper. I think many students like myself find it hard to write because it is too formal, making it feel dull, stressful and irrelative. Creative writing removes a lot of restrictions and societal expectations of what good quality writing is.

Additionally, I learned how to critique the writing of my peers properly and constructively. This I believe is a great skill I believe for me to have acquired. The ability to just be able to read over a person's work and give them constructive criticisms in a way that will be helpful for revision is great. In creative writing, I have received and have given a lot of good meaningful feedback on assignments. Combining my professor's feedback and the feedback from my peers as well I was able to pinpoint my weakness in writing and work on it. Whenever I received comments, I would go back to reread and edit my work. First fixing necessary corrections that they brought up then adding in more detail to make the writing more descriptive. Every time, my final draft is the better one and for sure I will make use of peer review and make revisions if I take another English class in the future. Before going through this process in this class, I never realized how helpful peer review is to make quality writing. I have heard teachers and other professors say that peer review is good but they never really made us do it in class as practical as this one.

One of my favorite assignments that I did for this class was when each student in the class was assigned a picture to create a story. A good portion of the class were given the same picture and this was where it started to interest me because I could have read afterwards what my classmates had written about the picture I was given. I wrote about picture A and when the time ran out, the next part of the assignment was to read and comment on three of our classmates' stories. Before I read my classmate's stories, I made sure to choose the ones that wrote about

picture A. Before reading the first one, I wondered what else could I have made up to not just match this picture but derive a sensible story. For a few minutes I came to the conclusion that all 3 of the writings, mine included, should be roughly the same but to my surprise they were very different. This just goes to show that a picture can be interpreted in many different ways by different people. Not only was this assignment very creative but it made me wonder how many interpretations could have been possible if the professor gave the whole class one picture to construct a story from given no context.

The most challenging thing to do for this class, was to expand on my ideas. While this may be simple for many students I struggled with this because I always thought that my writing is enough, and I don't need to add more because the reader should understand what I am saying. To fix this, I learned that I should re-read what I write while for each paragraph that I read, I ask myself: Do I need to say more here? Is this clear enough? Is this easily understood? Should I add more? This is how I overcame this challenge and I would recommend this technique to those like myself who need to take this extra step to go more indeept with their writing! My work done early in this semester I would say lacked detail and only presented good ideas but towards the end I tried to leave no stone unturned by explaining the things that I brought up. As the genres changed, my writing became more in depth and clear.

**Memoir:**

Surely there are more than one instance in my life where I have felt anonymous. A time most recent that I can remember was when I was attending high school. In high school I kept to myself because I didn't see the need to be very social with other students. My everyday routine after school would be to do my homework and then play video-games, rinse and repeat. This lifestyle not only made me feel anonymous but it also held me in my comfort zone for a very long time and it impacted me, making me feel unable to be comfortable in public.

I attempted to change my behavior when I got into the 11th grade and what I did was I joined the student government club that my new teacher encouraged me to participate in. Going to the first, second, and third meetings after school, I began to understand what this club was really about and because I liked their motive, so I continued to go to all of the meetings when possible. Eventually we had to have an election for positions in this student government organization and I chose to run for president! Even though I didn't become the student body president, I was still satisfied that I at least tried to address the issue head on while for the first time speaking publicly on stage.

## Short Story:

After receiving a call from Miguel, Ivan and the boys all met up at the Bar to discuss some business regarding a heist to rob an island owned by El Rubio. Miguel's initial plan was to steal a Michelangelo painting but El Rubio got to it before them and so they must steal it back. El Rubio is a drug lord who owns possession of many valuables located around his compound. He is a very dangerous man and he is feared by many people.

Miguel told us that the goal is to steal back the painting while grabbing secondary loot. Their preparation would be very minimal since Miguel gathered all the intel on the possible infiltration points and escape routes they are going to use during the heist. He somehow managed to figure all of it out, even locating where the valuables are stored and what equipment is required to get access to them.

Ivan, Tony, and Claude knew that robbing this island was not going to be an easy task compared to previous heists because this one involved passing across heavily armed security guards dogging long-range security cameras and more.

They were skeptical about taking on this heist however that changed after Ivan said that the potential making would be well over 150 million dollars as a whole. Now it was their number one priority to carry out this heist despite being concerned about getting caught.

Miguel, having thought of every possible variable, was able to make the rest of his team feel confident about this operation after going over the plan many times until it was programmed in them. After waiting for the right time to rob the island, Miguel contacted the team to get ready tonight stating that El Rubio is hosting a private party on his island which meant that most of his attention will be held on his guests.

Miguel, the main man to this operation, told us after they regrouped that because he was a very good hacker, his job would be to hack into the compound security cameras from his amphibious helicopter floating on shore near by the sewers where no guards were patrolling. He'd be responsible for walking us through the main hack and giving us heads up on certain things through earpiece communication. Not only that he would use the helicopter as a getaway after the ground team had full bags of loot and were ready to escape the island.

Dressed in their infiltration suites in the night sky ground team members felt anxious preparing to jump. While this is happening, Miguel is already in his boat off coast getting ready to instruct us. The pilot was a trusted friend of Miguel that was just responsible for carrying the ground team above the island. Moments later, they sky dive down to the island, looking for a certain place to land. Ground team had to be very careful not to be seen by big guard towers. They changed the directions of their parachute whenever they realized they were within range of the cameras on the towers.

Before they knew it, they all landed safely by nearby the back door to the compound. Claude with his suppressed rifle took out two guards immediately that were standing at the and the ground team rushed over to begin the hack in order to open the door. Miguel explaining to them what exactly they need to do to hack into the doors and open it, they hacked it with no failed attempt which means that El Rubio doesn't know that his compound has been breached.

They were relieved that they finally made it into the compound, and now they rushed over to the first spot where no supervision was and they collected the painting made by Michelangelo well worth over 300 million dollars. This was stashed in Claude's duffle bag and because he was carrying scuba suits already and had to keep the painting in excellent condition, his duffle bag is considered to be at full capacity. The next thing to do now is to steal the diamond panther which is also worth 300 million dollars.

Since the panther statue is El Rubio's prize possession, this is located in a basement below his office. The ground team took out some more guards and when they got to the panther statue Tony jumped and he froze, he was staring straight into a security camera swearing that it was over, he messed up because it saw him. Surprised as they are Miguel quickly orders Tony with his suppressed pistol to shoot down the camera and so he did. They could have been spotted right there if they had taken too long to take out the camera and after realizing this, they took a brief moment to collect themselves before moving on. Using the glass cutter, Ivan cut open the glass case and collected the panther statue, putting it in his duffle bag. Again, since they want to preserve the value of the item his bag is now considered full. With Tony left carrying a bag with some equipment he is going to collect some gold bars located near by the sewers. When they got there 3 guards spotted them and the ground team quickly executed all 3 of them. Tony came over to the gold bars and he started to fill his bag with them quickly.

Afterwards, the ground team changed into scuba gear and they went down into the sewers. Minutes later the alarms rang and El Rubio was heard by everyone through the public address system that there are some criminals on his island and demanded that they be hunted down. El Rubio went into his helicopter and ordered the guards to hunt down the thieves. Miguel heard the alarm ring and became worried that they were all caught. Moments later, he saw them nearby swimming to him. He let them into his helicopter and started to take off asking:

“what happened? and why were the alarms sounding?”

They responded explaining that they did not know and that it was not until minutes after they went into the sewers that they heard the alarm go off. Miguel turned his head and saw the loot, he smiled and continued to fly. He felt proud of his crew once again and now all that is left is to escape the island. Looking back the team saw a lot of helicopters in the air shining lights down looking for them. El Rubio was robbed and now the feeling of success started to chip in. The boys knew that they are filthy rich now and can live their dreams. Flying off, thinking yet again of another successful heist, the team celebrated after reaching home safely and the money was split into 4 each of them walking away with well over 150 million dollars.

## **Poem: A cold day**

It is cold outside.

I do not want to go outdoors to play with my younger brother.

But my father insists.

We got dressed in layers.

It has started to snow and it feels like we are about to freeze.

I don't like playing outside on cold days like this.

My brother had the most amazing idea!

We should cover up ourselves with the snow and hide in there!



## Dialogue: Online Calculus 3 Class

Teacher: So the single integral is the area under the 2D graph!

Teacher: The double integral is a way to integrate over a two-dimensional area to find the volume.

Teacher: The triple integral is to find the Volume as-well but with 3 variables.

Teacher: The quadruple integral is to find the space time continuum, in other words the End of the World. Any questions??

(Me sitting in confusion)



Teacher: No questions? Ok we will move on to the next chapter.

# Journals:

## Journal 1

I have had a couple friends throughout my lifetime, but the problem I have is keeping in touch with them. This was a problem for me because I didn't take their contact information when I had the chance to because I was not thinking about not seeing them again. Luckily, I have been keeping in touch with a friend whom I have grown close to since middle school. His name is Jean and we have been best friends since 7th grade. I do not see him anymore because we attend different colleges, nevertheless, he is the one friend I can say that I have had a significant friendship with till this day. I wasn't quite sure when or how we became so close. But my best guess was that we played sports together or rather sat together in a certain class. The reason why he is important to me is because he has a positive influence on me. He encourages me to never give up in various moments where I doubt myself.

## Journal 2

Surely there are more than one instance in my life where I have felt anonymous. A time most recent that I can remember was when I was attending high school. In high school I kept to myself because I didn't see the need to be social. My everyday routine would be to do my school work afterwards going home to do homework and play video-games, rinse and repeat. This lifestyle not only made me feel anonymous but it also held me in my comfort zone for a very long time and it impacted me not being able to feel fully comfortable in public.

I attempted to change my behavior when I got into the 11th grade and what I did was I joined the student government club that my teacher encouraged me to participate in. Going to the first, second, and third meetings after school, I began to understand what this club was really about and because I liked their motive, so I continued to go to all of the meetings when possible. Eventually we had to have an election for positions in this student government organization and I chose to run for president! Even though I didn't become the student body president, I was still satisfied that I at least tried and for the first time spoke publicly on stage. This experience really helped me to understand that there is nothing to be shy about when presenting to an audience and when interacting with people because at the end of the day it is all about what I want to say and how to deliver it to the audience.