

## Living Words Creative Writing Workshop Exercise

### "Two People Seen From Afar" by Jeff VanderMeer

#### Introductions (5 minutes)

Have the workshop mediator introduce the writer. The writer should tell participants a little bit about himself and his interests.

#### Icebreakers (5-10 minutes)

For the icebreaker, have the participants go around the room and describe their favorite vacation or favorite destination.

#### Writer introduces the topic (3-4 minutes)

The writer should introduce the theme of the session by saying something about the beach and seeing other people at a distance on the beach. Then, the writer should introduce the first prompt by asking the participants to use their imagination and think of the scenario:

Prompt #1: Two people are walking on the beach. You see them from afar.

Then, have the writer ask the participants to write down what the two people from afar are saying just from their body language. (In other words, don't use any dialogue!)

Have the mediator write prompt #1 on the board.

#### Writing: Part I (5-10 minutes)

Have participants write what the two people from afar are saying by writing about their body language.

#### Writing: Part II (5-10 minutes)

Have participants exchange the scenes written above with another participant. Have the participant read the scene to him- or herself. Then, write the same scene (two people walking on the beach as described by the other participant), but this time write the scene all in dialogue with no description.

#### Sharing Part II (5-10 minutes)

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Participants should be invited to share their stories as well as revisit them throughout the week or expand upon them in their own time.

Thanks/ Goodbye (1-2 minutes)

Have the moderator thank everyone, including the guest writer, and also tell participants what to expect for the next session.