Folding poems are a collaborative way to create from nature. Simply choose a theme while experiencing nature directly or from a photograph or work of art. For this exercise, we will be using a silk painting, *Colors of Time* by Nancy McKay. It shows a view from the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.

Directions: Observe the painting, *Colors of Time*. Divide into groups of 3 to write a poem inspired by it. Each person will have a chance to write a line and to respond to a line.

Here's how: The first person for each team writes the first line of the poem then passes it to the second person. Second person writes one line that responds to the first writer’s line, then writes another; then folds the poem so the third person sees only the last line written. The third person writes a line responding to the second person’s last line, then writes another; then folds the poem so that the first writer sees only the last line. The first person writes the last line of the stanza. Below is a diagram of how it works. Use the attached form.

LINES
1 First Person Writes a Line
2 Second Person Responds

(Second player folds here before giving it to the third player)
3 Second person New Line
4 Third person Responds

(Third player folds here before giving it to the first player)
5 Third Person New Line
6 First Person Responds

Below is an example of a Folding Poem by Ashleigh, Keith, and Paul written at the Aigas Field Centre in Scotland.

Theme: Tree Imagery
Anchored deep within the earth
Reaching high towards the clouds
Spreading green wings to catch the winds
Tiny seeds float away to settle in the deep moist earth
Reaching down and up and out
The forest clothes the hills