Observation Poem

Good poems often spring from careful observation. You can learn a great deal about a person, place, or thing by observing that subject over a period of time.

Step One:
- Pick a person, place, or thing to observe---a family member, a lace near where you live, or your bicycle, for example.
- At a time when you are feeling relaxed and open, take time to observe your subject.
- Have a sheet of paper and pencil handy so that you can take notes about what you see.
- For your goal, have at least twenty different observations about your subject.
- Afterwards, in the space below, begin to list all the things that you noticed about your subject.
- Phrase each observation in a complete sentence.
- Make sure that each observation contains as many strong details as possible to give a clear and vivid picture to your reader.

OK: My father has a loud laugh.
Better: My father's laugh is so loud it even wakes up the cat.

OK: It was windy in the park today.
Better: The wind in the park blew so hard everyone had to walk backwards.

OK: The wheels on my new bicycle are red and silver.
Better: With their red rims and silver spokes, my wheels look as if they're on fire when I speed on my new bike.

YOU SHOULD OBSERVE 20 THINGS TOTAL

Step Two:
- When you have completed your list, take a few moments to look it over.
- Put a check mark by the observations that seem most interesting or sound best.
- Your Observation Poem may include up to twelve lines. Decide which observations you would like to include.
- Next, decide the order in which you will list, them in your poem draft.
- Write your first draft.

Step Three:
- Take a moment to quietly read aloud the first draft of your Observation Poem.
- Ask yourself if you could make any changes in the phrasing of any observation sentence that would make it more interesting or better-sounding.
- Ask if your poem could be improved by changing the order in which you have placed the sentences.
- When you have finished with your revisions, write your final draft.
- If you wish, feel free to add an appropriate title.