Poetic Justice Discussion Example

The Evolution of a Poem

Idea Web

Focusing
- Central image: the ice storm
- Feeling to express: loneliness of someone leaving you behind
- Deeper idea: sadness of being a teenager (not a child and not an adult)
- Symbols: stars, ice, playing in the snow, running away, sleep

First Draft

Ice storm

The last time I saw you
you were running behind the house
and snow was
flying from the bottom
of your boots.
I could hear the little boys’ screeching
In the back yard where
you chased them around.
They were like wild animals
so happy to have your attention
and the snow to play in.
I was too young
to join the adults in the house
but too old
play chase with you and my brothers
so I crouched by the garage
waiting for you to chase them
through the gate and into the front yard,
waiting for them to fly past me
so I could pelt them with the
snowballs I had packed.
I waited by the side of the house
with my feet curled up under me
like a cat.
I closed my eyes
and imagine the warmth of your body.
Hours later I woke up.
I opened my eyes to
stars on the blue-black sky that
looked like salt sprinkled over velvet.
Ice was pouring down
in shards that made me know
you were gone
and there was nothing I could say

Second Draft
ice storm

the last i saw of you
you raced behind the house
in a wake of snow
flying from the bottom
of your boots
the little boys’ screeches
echoed to me
from the back yard where
you herded them
wild creatures
crazed with cold and delight
while i, too young
to sip whiskey
too old
to have the heart
for the chase
crouched by the garage
waiting
for the gate to open
on the other side
for boys to fly past
to pelt with the
arsenal of ammo
i packed
my feet curled beneath me
like a cat
i closed my eyes
stretching my claws
into your heat
hours later
i opened to
salt sprinkled over
indigo velvet
pouring down
evanescent
bitter shards
to slice my tongue
to blind me