

Reflective Essay - Prewrite Ideas

In "How it Feels to be Colored Me," Zora Neale Hurston uses the metaphor of a brown paper bag filled with "A first-water diamond, an empty spool, bits of broken glass, lengths of string, a key to a door long since crumbled away . . . a nail bent under the weight of things too heavy for any nail," and several other compelling objects. Some of these objects suggest specific characteristics of her past or her personality.

Taking a cue from Ms. Hurston, write a personal essay that reveals important characteristics of your personality by way of three or four carefully selected metaphors, as Ms. Hurston does.

Try to find three metaphors that exist within the same "world," but that also introduce the characteristics you wish to highlight. For example, a student may wish to point out that she is *artistic, responsible, and fun*. She would describe herself as a locked journal that contains poems, tax receipts, and cartoon sketches. She would show that the poem represents her artistic side, her tax receipts represent her responsible side, and the cartoon sketches represent her fun side. Another student may wish to use his Dodge Dart to describe him – unpredictable steering (spontaneity), a dependable slant-six engine (inner strength), and lots of trunk space (open-minded).

From there, the next step is to prove that you are these things by finding specific examples from your life that prove that you are these things. Stick to the standard pre-write formula and find three examples to support each characteristic.

I Am:

Characteristic 1:	Characteristic 2:	Characteristic 3:

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