

“Lessons from a Poet, on Poetry”

By Casey Child

*In memory of WKU Poet Laureate Mary Ellen Miller*

(1935-2018)

Sentiment, not sentimental because it's trite / ~~you need economy if you want your poems to be any good~~  
/ use an image here pearls strung around the neck of not the Poet's wife, but of the poet herself / throw  
this poem away except for this line / for the love of God stop misusing “smirk” / I know that rhythm's  
hard, my child / use an image here / a turtleneck, gold hoop earrings, withered hands writing and  
writing, and writing and they were not always withered / you've got to read more / read more poems  
from Poetry / I have the archive in my desk drawer / close your eyes and listen while I read this / listen  
while I read this / you'll know why I've been here all this time / all this time I've sat and marked your  
poems and I'll do it till I die / or at least / until they won't have me anymore