“Letter To” Poem Assignment

Assignment: Just like Daniel Beaty’s “Knock Knock” poem, write a letter poem to your younger self about things younger you needs to know. Notice how Beatty begins with a story, then moves into the letter to heal himself. In his letter he lists advice to himself: “Shave in one direction”, “Dribble the page with your brilliance”, etc.

What advice does younger you need to know? What could you have done differently? What do you need to know to succeed in life? Beatty writes of the obstacles that need to be knocked down in his life: racism, lack of opportunity. Are there obstacles in your own life? What could you say to younger you about those obstacles? Perhaps you have your own life put together. Instead, write a letter poem to someone else who might need to hear a few words of advice. A parent, a sibling, a friend, a classmate, a teacher, a political leader, a celebrity, a famous athlete, someone you admire, etc.

The Process:

- Watch video of “Knock Knock”
- Read “Knock Knock” by Daniel Beaty
- Read the example poems
- Brainstorm things you want to tell your younger self/someone else in your life
- Write your letter poem
- Reread your poem
- Revise, making sure to include sensory details - highlight imagery and sensory details in your poem

Grading Criteria:

- Your poem must be at least 20 lines
- The poem should include advice
- The poem should be written like a letter and a poem
- The poem should include imagery and sensory details

Total Points: 25

Pre-Write Organizer

People	Advice

This part sets up your letter poem

Your letter poem goes here

Dear _____,

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