

I created this portrait of Toni Morrison because she is in my opinion, one of the best African American writers and poets. I feel that she puts her soul into her writings and that is what I aspire to do with my paintings. I love using combinations of mediums together, like she does with her writing. I enjoy mixing watercolors and color pencils together, mostly due to the fact that pencil was my first chosen medium. Soon after I fell in love with watercolor and started combining them together. I think the combination of those two mediums make for something truly beautiful, like her writing.

Nathalia Vasquez, 12, Stamford High School

Someone Leans Near

Someone leans near
And sees the salt your eyes have shed.

You wait, longing to hear
Words of reason, love or play
To lash or lull you toward the hollow day.

Silence kneads your fear
Of crumbled star-ash sifting down
Clouding the room here, here.

You shore up your heart to run. To stay.
But no sign or design marks the narrow way.

Then on your skin a breath caresses
The salt your eyes have shed.

And you remember a call clear, so clear
"You will never die again."

Once more you know
You will never die again.

Toni Morrison