

“MIT Stories” Responses, I

As you read and respond to: “Que Sera Sera,” “Body Ritual of the Nacirema,” “Pottery Class,” and “Owl,” you can think about the following questions. Feel free to write your own response without them, if you are so inspired.

For “Que Sera, Sera,” you might think about how the author shares this MIT experience. Does he allow you to relate to his dilemma? How? Does it work as a story, with a beginning, middle, and end? What makes it satisfying to read, or not?

For “Body Ritual of the Nacirema,” what do you think of these people? Can you relate to them at all? Can you imagine someone from a radically different culture observing the rituals of MITers and finding some of them almost as strange as these?

For “Pottery Class,” check out how the author uses the graphic form to tell her story. What do the graphics contribute? What can we learn from a graphic story like this that can help us in our own writing of “regular” prose stories?

For “Owl,” try reading aloud. (And you can click on the link to the Ginsburg poem “Howl” that inspired this, and check that out too.) How well does this “free verse” poem capture, or not, some of the experience of an MIT student? How does the writer use this poetic form to help him do it? Do you find it an engaging way to present the MIT students’ struggles? Are there places that confuse you? Parts that particularly work for you? What makes this a poem?

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